

Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

Volume XXI, Issue No. 122

WEDNESDAY MAY 25, 2011

www.saipantribune.com 50¢

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OPINION METER

This week's poll:

On a scale of 1 to 5, with 5 being the highest, what's your level of confidence in the Board of Regents' choice of Dr. Christa Adams as the next NMC president?

Let your voice be heard!
Go to
www.saipantribune.com
to cast your vote.

I N S I D E



DNA Evidence

DNA evidence is said to link former IMF leader Dominique Strauss-Kahn to the maid.

BUSINESS...Page 13



Rescue Efforts

Rescue crews dig through piles of houses and cars in a search for tornado victims.

NATION...Page 14



Planet Oprah

Many expected "The Oprah Winfrey Show" to be big. No one anticipated Planet Oprah.

LIFE & STYLE...Page 20

Rota retro pay takes 20 years to happen

• Of almost \$1.2M needed, only \$8,500 raised so far
• 19 of 211 claimants have already passed away

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Rota resident Bobbie Taisacan said her sister passed away without seeing a single cent from a retroactive pay raise that was supposed to be paid as early as 1991. She herself has been waiting for a salary adjustment that would go to her medical expenses.

See ROTA on Page 4

Fly Guam magazine spotlights NMI in June

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

Fly Guam's in-flight magazine *Hafa Adai* will feature the CNMI in its second edition next month.

The publication's managing director, Carlos Santos, and chief editor Eduardo Garza said that *Hafa Adai*'s June edition will be made available to the carrier's inbound passengers

from Hong Kong and at its various stations in Asia.

"The idea behind this is to give our passengers a first look of what they should expect once they land in the Northern Marianas. It is our intention to promote the islands and show the many beautiful places it can offer to the world," said Santos.

On top of featuring the physical beauty of the islands, Santos

said that readers will also be treated to special stories about the islands' food, activities, culture, history, and the local

See FLY GUAM on Page 4

Fly Guam's *Hafa Adai* chief editor Eduardo Garza, left, and managing director Carlos Santos show off the maiden issue of the in-flight magazine during a visit to the *Saipan Tribune*'s office.

MONETH G. DEPOSA

Report: Fund's assets had more ups than downs in last 10 years

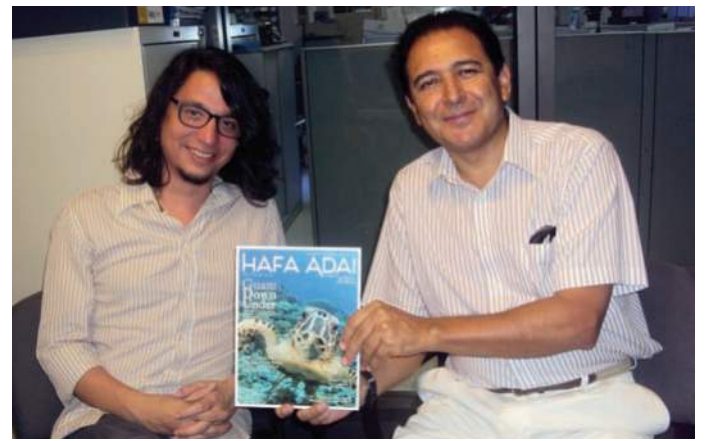
By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

The latest actuarial report prepared by Buck Consultants shows that the Retirement Fund's invested assets did relatively well from fiscal years 2000 to 2009,

with returns reaching as high as 19 percent at one point.

In a presentation yesterday to the Fund's board of trustees, Fitial administration, and lawmakers, Buck Consultants principal Dylan Porter said the Fund's

See REPORT on Page 4



Alert Syed helps cops solve burglary at his house

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

An alert Rabby Syed was able to help police solve a burglary at his house in As Perdido with the arrest of one of two suspects on Monday.

Terrence Camacho Cabrera, 19, was taken to the Superior Court yesterday on charges of burglary, theft, and conspiracy. Bail was set at \$10,000 cash. Court records show that Cabrera has a criminal history that dates back to when he was still a juvenile.

Detective Jackson Jack stated in his report that the Department

See ALERT on Page 4



A BUSY DAY ON THE HILL

From left, Rep. Ray Tebuteb (R-Saipan), Rep. Ray Yumul (R-Saipan), Rep. Stanley Torres (Ind-Saipan) and Rep. Joseph Palacios (R-Saipan) during a House session yesterday afternoon, when all 18 members present voted to override Gov. Benigno R. Fitial's veto of a bill authorizing the Bureau of Motor Vehicles to establish a student driver education program. The House also passed seven bills and two joint resolutions. **See related stories on Pages 2 and 5.**

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Kagman rape suspect's bid to withdraw guilty plea denied. PAGE 3
House overrides Fitial's veto of driver education bill. PAGE 5

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Local

Lee, Oh are Saipan Community School's top students

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**
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REPORTER

Jee Hyun Lee and Han Mil Oh were named outstanding students of Saipan Community School after receiving the highest academic honors during the school's commencement ceremony Friday at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe.

Saipan Community School, through its principal Bobby Winkfield, promoted 22 eighth graders to high school after completing all the requirements for junior high school.

Lee, 14, was the class valedictorian and the recipient of four other special awards including A



JEE HYUN LEE
Valedictorian



HAN MIL OH
Salutatorian

Honor Roll, Perfect Attendance, President's Education Award, and Ukulele Elite Award.

She will enroll at Saipan Southern High School next school year. Lee is the daughter of Young Mi Jun and Si Wook Lee.

"I am greatly honored to become valedictorian for this year. I think that I am able to stand here today because of my parent's support, classmates' help, and teachers' love and guidance, so I would like to thank them all," she said during her speech Friday, adding that Saipan Community School helped her become ready for high school.

The second top honors went to

Han Mil Oh, 14, the class salutatorian. She is the daughter of An Yeol Oh and Jung Won Kim.

In her speech, Oh attributed her success in junior high school to her parents, teachers, and classmates.

SCS also bestowed other awards: Perfect Attendance Award went to Lyndin Johnson; loyalty awardees were Seiya Eda, William Fong, and Xuan Jun Lu; President's

Education awards went to Steven Choi, Rebekah Esplin, William Fong, Jehn Joyner, Jin Pyo Jeon, Lydin Johnson, Xuan Jun Lu, and Han Mil Oh.

The Outstanding Academic Excellence Award went to Jee Hyun Lee and Emily Dewitt.

The school also awarded certificates to student of the month awardees throughout the school year.

Bills want QC program reforms, a new \$1 fee for dive shop operators

»House passes 7 bills, 2 resolutions

By **HAIDEE V. EUGENIO**
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REPORTER

The House of Representatives passed yesterday seven bills and two joint resolutions, including one that imposes a new \$1 surcharge per customer of dive shop operators to help raise funds to buy a decompression chamber and tourism promotion.

Another one reforms the qualifying certificate program to tighten eligibility requirements, increase the application fees by up to \$4,500 in other business types compared to Public Law 12-32 and impose annual monitoring fees of up to \$3,000, among other things.

House Bill 17-58, Senate Draft 1, or the Qualifying Certificate Reform Act of 2010, passed by a vote of 13-2 with two abstentions and three absences.

The tax break program bill, introduced by Rep. Joseph DeLeon Guerrero (R-Saipan) and five others, now goes to the governor for action.

Rep. Froilan Tenorio (Cov-Saipan), who was off island, earlier said the government loses some \$15 million in annual revenue because of this program that needs to be reformed.

The Senate substitute of the House bill increases and lowers the application fees for certain types of businesses, compared to those provided for in Public Law 12-32.

The bill also imposes an annual monitoring fee of \$1,500 to \$3,000.

The Senate Fiscal Affairs Committee, in its report on the bill, said the Commonwealth Development Authority's QC program inadvertently places additional burden on the CNMI's already limited resources.

"Additionally, public benefit contributions and meaningful participation by the people of the Commonwealth, particularly in terms of ownership and joint ventures, have been sorely lacking in the qualifying certificate program," the Senate panel said.

Rep. Edmund Villagomez (Cov-Saipan) was among the two members who voted "no" on the bill because there's lack of comment from CDA.

\$1 surcharge

By a vote of 17-0, a bill imposing a \$1 surcharge per customer

of scuba dive operators and marine sports concessionaires passed the House.

House Bill 17-75, House Substitute 1, introduced by floor leader George Camacho (Cov-Saipan), now goes to the Senate.

Under the bill, funds collected from the new surcharge will be deposited by the Finance secretary in two separate accounts.

The Decompression Chamber Fund will be for surcharge fees collected by scuba dive shop operators and will be used to buy a decompression chamber.

Camacho said a decompression chamber costs about \$100,000.

The Marine Sports Concessionaires Fund, which will be for surcharge fees collected by marine sports concessionaires, will be used by the Marianas Visitors Authority solely for promotional and advertising needs.

7 other bills passed

The House also passed five other bills and resolutions:

■ HB 17-162 or the CNMI Computer Crime Act;

■ HB 17-110, which restricts the transfer of fixed assets and capital goods bought by either house of the Legislature;

■ HB 17-145, which requires annual licensing of poker machines, the installation of a video monitoring system for all poker machines and require the secured storage for unlicensed poker machines;

■ HB 17-93, Senate Substitute 1, which seeks to improve financial oversight of the Northern Marianas College;

■ House Bill 17-192, which requires the student representative to the Board of Education be alternately appointed from all public schools.

■ House Joint Resolution 17-35, authorizing the governor to submit to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development three applications for grants totaling \$1.460 million to benefit low- and moderate-income families; and

■ Senate Joint Resolution 17-13, requesting the U.S. House Subcommittee on Fisheries, Wildlife, Oceans and Insular Affairs and the U.S. Department of Homeland Security to investigate U.S. Customs and Border Protection officials at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport.

National Enforcement Mobilization

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Most kids age 4 to 8 need booster seats

Zoning green-lights solar farm project in As Matuis

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
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REPORTER

The Commonwealth Zoning Board approved Monday night the conditional use permit application of Solar System Corp. to build a solar power or photovoltaic generation facility in As Matuis.

The project, which has an estimated cost of \$1.39 million, involves the construction of a fenced 211-kilowatt solar farm, with the solar panels to be bolted onto steel frames that will be anchored to the ground with either steel piles or concrete columns.

The project, located north of the La Fiesta Mall and Camille Gardens Apartment Complex on the east side of Chalan Pale Arnold Road and is zoned as rural, will have a fence six feet from the property line and the actual solar power facility built 50 feet inland.

In a public hearing held at the Gregorio T. Camacho Elementary School on Monday, board members Alice Igitol, Henry Sablan and Ed Arriola Jr. voted yes to the application. Board chair Diego Blanco recused himself from voting due to possible conflict of interest. Vice chair Joe Limes was absent.

The approval of the application, however, is subject to conditions, which include having the six-foot piece of land between the fence and the property line as a planting strip for landscaping, to show landscaping along the entire perimeter of the property, and a six-vehicle limited parking

at the site at one time.

The applicant's CNMI-based team members, including Michael Ada of Integrated Professional Solutions and attorney F. Matthew Smith, were joined by Guam-based director Tom Clark at the Monday hearing.

Ada, in his presentation, said the safety and security of the panels is of "utmost importance" as the panels will be made to withstand winds of up to 155 miles per hour.

"From the residents' standpoint, it's a very big concern if the typhoon comes. You don't want solar panels flying into your home. We understand that," he said.

Ada noted that the project, which has secured all federal and local regulatory permits, will not cause noise or any other form of pollution.

He also emphasized that the project will not use batteries nor will it have any storage area for batteries. "The electricity generated will be plugged directly to CUC grid," he said.

According to Ada, the project will benefit the community as it will result in lower utility costs for consumers "once the power is sold back to CUC."

Residents' concerns

Property owners and residents who attended Monday's hearing raised some concerns about the project, including health and safety.

Victoria Camacho, who owns an apartment building in the area, said the project will

affect their families since they live right beside the project.

"We are very concerned about our health and the [safety] of our children and our families. We are not against this project but our [safety] and health is first," she said at the hearing.

Michelle Macaranas, another resident and property owner, told the board she is not against the project but

emphasized that she does not want the fence "to be just six feet from my property."

Helen Camacho, who also lives next to the project site, raised concerns about erosion and water runoff—which can affect "the beautiful Paupau Beach and lagoon" located west of the project site—since it had been cleared of vegetation.

Other community members, including Bud White and

Douglas Brennan, attended the hearing to express support for the project.

Sablan, who voted for the project and supports alternative energy sources, urged the project team to address the concerns and meet with affected residents to come up with a compromise.

Ada, in an interview after the hearing, said there are about nine families who live next to the project site. He as-

sured that they will work with residents about their concerns.

"I want to emphasize that the company is not asking for special consideration but we do understand their concerns. Matt Smith and I will speak with them and find out what we can do to be good neighbors," he told *Saipan Tribune*.

Ada added that they will set up a meeting with the residents alone but will still proceed with the project since the zoning office has already approved their application.

'Transfer station' for stray dogs eyed in Chalan Kanoa

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
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REPORTER

The Dog Control Program of the Saipan Mayor's Office is working on putting up a "transfer station" for stray dogs in Chalan Kanoa.

The station, which will have six to eight compartments, will serve as a mini kennel where stray dogs caught in the southern parts of the island will temporarily be placed, said program director Ray B. Lizama.

"When we do stray dog eradication on the south side, we can use the CK transfer station," he told *Saipan Tribune*.

Construction of the facility, located behind the post office, begun last week, Lizama said, and is expected to be completed before the dog tagging and registration starts on June 6 at the Carolinian Utt in Garapan.

"We already have the materials and they are set to go," he added.

According to Lizama, the transfer station is necessary since

the main dog pound in Lower Base has yet to be built and that the Mayor's Office only has two dog traps at present.

"If we catch two dogs with the traps, we're done for the day," he explained.

Lizama noted that Saipan Mayor Donald Flores, who supports the transfer station, has already asked the help of lawmakers to provide dog traps for each of their own precincts.

"It's just that the funding is the most challenging part. The

mayor has been trying to reach out to the legislators," he added.

Right now, Lizama said they are looking for more volunteers who will help out during the dog registration.

"We are working closely with the NMC-CREES to see how many student volunteers we can get," he said.

Lizama added that they are "always on the lookout for other volunteers" such as dog trainers who are willing to train the dogs at the shelter or

just anybody who is willing to spend their time helping out with the program.

"We're also asking establishments such as hotels, restaurants, and stores to donate leftover steaks or food as well as canned dog food that we can use to feed the dogs," said Lizama.

To volunteer, donate, or for more information about the program, call 234-6208 or email dogcontrolprogram.mos2011@yahoo.com.

4-hour power outage on Saturday

There will be a power interruption on Saturday, May 28, from 5am to 9am, to allow Commonwealth Utilities Corp. linemen to replace two deteriorated power poles on Chalan Pale Arnold Road near the TransAmerica Hardware building.

The power outage will affect the intersection of Chalan Pale Arnold Road and Gualo Rai Road, to Quarter Master Road and south to the Chalan Pale Arnold and Chalan Monsignor Guerrero intersection.

The purpose of the power interruption is to allow the linemen to safely perform maintenance on the Feeder 3 second partial circuit, CUC said in a statement.

Due to the amount of hardware required to be transferred from the deteriorated power poles, CUC said the duration of the power interruption will be four hours. In addition, a separate crew will be performing vegetation clearing on the primary lines in the affected areas.

"CUC apologizes for any inconvenience this scheduled power interruption may impose on the community and its consumer's and will continue

to work diligently to minimize future interruptions," the statement adds. (*Saipan Tribune*)

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Draft budget keeps 16-hour cuts, unpaid holidays

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

House Ways and Means Committee chair Ray Basa (Cov-Saipan) said yesterday that a draft fiscal year 2012 budget bill still has unpaid holidays and a 16-hour cut every two weeks.

"There is not much difference from the governor's [2012] budget submission," he said in an interview after the House session yesterday.

This means most government employees will still receive 64-hour pay every two weeks, down from the normal eight-hour per payroll as the government revenues have been on a steady decline.

Basa said the draft bill reflects Gov. Benigno R. Fitial's \$102 million budget plan, which excludes projected revenue by the Department of Public Health which is expected to become a corporation.

Basa, a freshman lawmaker, said the committee has yet to finalize the budget bill for action by the full House.

The CNMI government partially shut down last year when the House and Senate failed to pass a budget before the start of FY 2011 on Oct. 1. Lawmakers have since said they will work harder to pass a timely budget and avoid another partial shutdown in October this year.

ROTA

From Page 1

"I'm really in crisis now. I have only been receiving regular retirement money when I need a disability retirement pay. I'm fighting for it. And if it's true that those like me who are entitled to retroactive pay could finally receive money, then that would help me," Taisacan told *Saipan Tribune* yesterday.

Taisacan is one of 211 claimants from Rota who are eligible to receive retroactive pay adjustments totaling almost \$1.2 million. This is a central government obligation.

Her sister was one of 19 who have already passed away without seeing a cent of that pay raise.

Each of the Rota claimants is eligible to receive anywhere between \$20 and \$42,313.

They, along with their Saipan and Tinian counterparts, were supposed to get the salary adjustments as early as 1991.

Unlike Saipan and Tinian employees, however, who started getting their retroactive pay a few years back—not from the central government but from their respective legislative delegations—no one from Rota has received a single cent.

The Rota Legislative Delegation has finally found money to pay them, but the \$8,500 that has been raised so far is not even 1 percent of the almost \$1.2 million needed.

"Anything that is little is better than nothing at all," said Taisacan, who was arts co-

ordinator for the Department of Community and Cultural Affairs-Rota from September 1990 to December 2010.

A Rota law signed last year increased the poker license fee on Rota by \$500 per machine and half of that increase is intended to pay for the retroactive salary hikes of the island's employees, while the other half is for Rota scholarship.

Rep. Teresita Santos (Ind-Rota), author of that bill, said yesterday that since January 2011 when the increase went into effect, the government has raised \$8,500 that will be used for the workers' retroactive pay. Santos said the Rota Legislative Delegation will soon meet to decide "how and when" to distribute the money.

One of the options is by lot-

Ticket sales key to Rotary's Las Vegas Night fundraiser

Whether or not the Las Vegas Night fundraiser of the Saipan Rotary Club will take place this year will be decided based on ticket sales.

"One week prior to the event, we're going to look at ticket sales and decide whether we're going to host it. We really need your help to get that through," club services director Laila Boyer told Rotarians during their meeting Tuesday.

The annual fundraising event, which features various casino games such as Black Jack, Roulette, and Texas Hold 'Em Pok-

er, is slated for June 18 at the Royal Taga Hall of the Saipan World Resort in Susupe.

The grand prize for this year's event is either \$10,000 cash or a brand new Mazda 2 Sport. Boyer said they will also give away major cash prizes.

Proceeds from the Las Vegas Night are used to fund Rotary's various community projects.

If they do not meet their target ticket sales, Boyer said they will have to postpone the event and move it to a later date.

Boyer noted, however, that

the event is already generating a lot of excitement and she has received email inquiries regarding the games and the booths, which they will finalize soon.

Aside from purchasing tickets at Rainbow Color in Garapan, select Shell stations, and at the Rotary's booth at the Garapan Street Market on Thursdays, the public may also buy tickets from the Rotary's booth at the Taste of the Marianas this Saturday and during the Flame Tree Arts Festival, also at the American Memorial Park, on June 9 to 12. (CVD)

FLY GUAM

From Page 1

people themselves.

Garza said they tapped local writers and photographers to captivate the genuine feeling of each story.

Like the magazine's maiden issue, which featured Guam, a total of 5,000 copies will be printed and distributed aboard Fly Guam's airplanes. Cop-

ies will also be available at Fly Guam's stations in Shanghai, Taipei, Beijing, Manila, Guangzhou, Hong Kong, and Guam.

Garza said they intend to make the *Hafa Adai* magazine not only a travel publication but also a "people's magazine."

To get more insight about the islands, Garza said he collaborated with the Marianas Visitors Authority to guide them in their tourism activities and plans.

Santos and Garza are confi-

dent that the second edition featuring the Commonwealth, like the Guam issue, will generate positive response and feedback. They hope that local companies will support the publication by advertising with them.

Hafa Adai magazine is published monthly.

Santos said the name *Hafa Adai* was chosen because it perfectly reflects how to welcome visitors to the islands.

New plane

From just one aircraft, Fly Guam is expected to get a new one next month for the scheduled charter flights from Nagoya, Taipei, and possibly Palau. At present, Fly Guam has three weekly charter flights from Guam and Hong Kong.

Besides a ticketing office at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, Santos said another outlet will be opened at the Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan for the same purpose.

"Based on the 10-year period, market performance was favorable to us. Despite four years of negative performances, we were able to stabilize it in the following years," Igisomar told *Saipan Tribune*.

During this period, the Fund was being advised by then-investment consultant Merrill Lynch, which is now being sued by some retirees for allegedly harming the Fund by providing bad advice to the trustees, resulting in the loss of millions of dollars for the retirees' fund. The lawsuit is ongoing.

The board of trustees has also been named a respondent in the case.

one had stolen their 40-inch flat screen TV.

Detective Jack said that, on Monday morning he interviewed the second suspect, who confessed that he and Cabrera burglarized the house.

Jack said the second suspect told him that he and Cabrera pried open a window at the northern part of the house with a crow bar and a hammer.

The suspects allegedly hid the TV set under the bushes behind

"We're seeing demand and, based on our record, we have a very positive number in our initial charter flights. This is why we're working closely with tour companies [Century Tours and Century Travels] in promoting the islands. I think it's only a matter of properly

marketing the Northern Marianas," said Santos.

Fly Guam plans to bring in four planes within the year and at least six more planes in three years.

"I've fallen in love with the islands...I trust that other people will feel the same..." said Santos.

Speaker names three to conference committee on derivative lawsuit bill

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

House Speaker Eli Cabrera (R-Saipan) named yesterday three House members to a conference committee with the Senate to reach a compromise on a bill allowing beneficiaries of trusts and retirement fund programs to take legal action on behalf of trusts or the NMI Retirement Fund when trustees who manage them refuse to bring such actions.

Cabrera appointed Rep. Ralph Demapan (Cov-Saipan) to head the three-member House conferees, along with Rep. Joseph Palacios (R-Saipan) and Rep. Sylvester Iguel (Cov-Saipan).

When the Senate rejected the House's amendment to a Senate bill on derivative lawsuit, Senate President Paul Manglona (Ind-Rota) named three Senate conferees led by Senate floor leader Pete Reyes (R-Saipan), Sen. Frank Cruz (R-Tinian), and Sen. Jovita Taimanao (Ind-Rota).

The senators cited "legal" and "technical" concerns with the House's version of Senate Bill 17-43.

The Senate and House have been meeting with the NMI Retirement Fund and others who oppose the bill, as well as those who support the bill, including attorney Robert O'Connor and other retirees.

REPORT

From Page 1

assets yielded returns ranging from 8 percent to 19 percent in six of the 10-year period.

He said this means the Fund posted gains as a result of the good market performance.

It was only in fiscal years 2001, 2002, 2008, and 2009 that saw negative returns on the Fund's investment portfolio.

The Fund's international investments are in common stocks, fixed income, hedge funds, and money markets.

The report indicates that fiscal year 2000 was the most lucrative, with returns on the Fund's

invested assets reaching 19.6 percent—the highest within the 10-year period. At the time, the Fund's portfolio was valued at \$453.5 million.

However, the following year, returns plunged to a negative 20 percent. The Fund's portfolio then was valued at \$375 million. In fiscal year 2002, the portfolio recovered a bit but still posted a negative 6.5 percent return.

Overall market performance picked up in the next four fiscal years when the Fund posted positive returns: 17.4 percent in 2003, with the portfolio valued at \$385.6 million; 11.1 percent in 2004 and assets valued at

\$399.8 million; 17.7 percent in 2005, with the portfolio valued at \$460.1 million; and 8.1 percent in 2006, with market value at \$472.6 million. A favorable 15.8 percent return was also noted in 2007, when the total portfolio was valued at \$510.1 million.

Besides the market losses posted in fiscal years 2001 and 2002, market performance was also down in fiscal years 2008 and 2009, yielding negative 13 percent and negative 1.1 percent returns respectively.

Despite these drastic hits, board chair Sixto Igisomar and Porter described the overall market performance during the 10-year period as "good."

As Perdido, the couple spotted their neighbor, Cabrera, walking with another person along the shoulder of the highway.

As their vehicle passed the two, Syed, through the rearview mirror, noticed Cabrera's strange reaction at seeing their car. Syed saw that Cabrera had stopped and kept looking at their car.

Syed and his wife became suspicious so they immediately dropped off their children at school and hurriedly returned home.

When the couple pulled into their property, they saw Cabrera leaning against the wall of their house and breathing heavily. The couple believed that Cabrera had been running. Cabrera's companion was seen walking downgrade along the shoulder of the highway.

The couple went inside the house, but when they did not notice anything missing, they left for work.

Later, at 3:15pm, Syed's son called to inform him that some-

the house, covered it with tree branches, then walked to Cabrera's girlfriend's house in Afetnas where they borrowed a car.

Cabrera allegedly drove back to the house, loaded the TV set onto the car, then proceeded to San Antonio where they sold it to a Chinese man. The second suspect said Cabrera handed him \$20 after the sale.

It was not clear in the report if the second suspect was also arrested. Syed wasn't able to re-

cover the stolen TV.

Syed is the president of the United Workers Movement Inc.-NMI.

On Feb. 26, 2011, Syed reportedly received a death threat on his cell phone for his advocacy work on behalf of long-term nonresident workers. Last month, the Office of the Attorney General charged the alleged death threat caller—22-year-old Joaquin H. Tenorio—with assault and disturbing the peace.

ALERT

From Page 1

ment of Public Safety received a call Friday afternoon about a burglary and theft incident at Syed's house.

Jack said that Syed and his wife had left the house at 7:10am that day to drop off their children at school. As they were driving down the road by the Parks and Recreation Office in

Judge denies rape suspect's bid to withdraw guilty plea

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
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REPORTER

The Superior Court denied yesterday Kagman rape suspect Angel Jess Santos' bid to withdraw his guilty plea. He will be sentenced on June 7, 2011.

In denying the motion, associate judge David A. Wiseman cited a U.S. Supreme Court ruling that requires "fair and just requirement reasons in order for a defendant to withdraw his guilty plea." Such reasons may

include the suspect not being told of the charges or the guilty plea not being made knowingly, willingly or voluntarily.

Santos' lawyer, Joseph James Norita Camacho, later told *Saipan Tribune* that they respect the court's ruling.

"We will prepare Angel and his family to give support and perhaps written testimony to ask for mercy from the court," Camacho said.

He pointed out that Santos had been willing to testify against

his three co-defendants—the ones who actually committed the rape.

"For Angel's part, he acted as a 'lookout' and for his part in the whole event Angel is very sorry and hope that his willingness to testify against the three co-defendants will bring a small measure of justice to the victim and her family," Camacho said.

Assistant attorney general Brian Gallagher, who prosecuted the case, declined to comment after the hearing, referring

the *Saipan Tribune* to Chief Prosecutor Michael Ernest.

Ernest stated, however, that they don't comment on pending cases and prefer to speak about the cases when they're actually in court.

Santos and his co-defendants—Joseph Camacho Jr., Alfred P. Hocog, and Ivan Jones Castro—were accused of accosting a then 16-year-old student in June last year in Kagman and then raping her at Tank Beach.

Santos, who has been in de-

tention since his arrest on June 18, 2010, immediately pleaded guilty as part of a plea deal where he will testify against the three other suspects.

In December 2010, however, the OAG asked the court to dismiss without prejudice the case against Joseph Camacho Jr., Hocog, and Castro. Wiseman granted the motion.

The dismissals prompted Santos to ask the court to allow him to retract his guilty plea. Camacho said that if Santos

had known that the government would dismiss the cases against his co-defendants, he would probably not have entered a guilty plea.

In the government's opposition, Gallagher said that Santos fails to argue that the plea was anything other than knowing, voluntary, and intelligent, nor is there any allegation that Santos is not getting the benefit of the bargain.

As of yesterday, the OAG has yet to re-open the case against the three suspects.

House overrides Fitial's veto of driver education bill

By **HAIDEE V. EUGENIO**
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REPORTER

By a vote of 18-0, the House of Representatives overrode yesterday Gov. Benigno R. Fitial's veto of a Senate bill authorizing the Bureau of Motor Vehicles to establish a student driver education program.

The Senate, from which the bill originated from, is likely to follow suit.

Fitial vetoed Senate Bill 17-20, Senate Draft 1, House Substitute 1, House Draft 2, Senate Draft 2 on May 13.

A few days later, Rep. Stanley Torres (Ind-Saipan) asked his colleagues to override the governor's veto, saying the bill "did not" mandate the immediate creation of a driver's education program within BMV and that the private driving school can still operate and offer its driver education program to those who

wish to pay \$350.

In yesterday's House session, there was no debate on the override as members engaged in several discussions on the measure when it was still going back and forth between the House and Senate.

All the 18 present members voted in favor of Torres' override proposal. Only Rep. Froilan Tenorio (Cov-Saipan) and Rep. Tony Sablan (R-Saipan) were absent in yesterday's session.

Senate floor leader Pete Reyes (R-Saipan), author of the bill, said he "will certainly try to secure enough support in the Senate to override."

"I'm sure I could get the votes needed to override," he told *Saipan Tribune*.

Torres said with the current economic difficulties, families find it hard to come up with \$350 to pay for a driver's education program.

In justifying an override, Torres said the governor "did not consider the most important part" of the bill, Section 2, which created an alternative driver's education program using a "stateside method that fits with the island way of teaching young drivers via family and relatives."

Press secretary Angel Demapan, when asked for comment, reiterated Fitial's message when he vetoed the bill—that BMV "is neither ready nor equipped to establish a driver's education program at this point."

"The BMV lacks the resources it needs to establish a feasible program that will include training instructors, drafting an approved curriculum, acquiring vehicles, insuring them, and factoring in the cost of fuel for the driving instruction portion of the program. It also exposes the government to liability should accidents occur with a student

driver," Demapan said.

The press secretary added that funding remains a concern for the BMV to undertake this program given that the measure states that 50 percent of the fees will go to the Department of Public Works and the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. for maintaining roads and

lighting the streets.

"The administration had hoped that the Legislature would have taken such concerns into consideration instead of going the route of an override. Addressing the governor's concerns first and maybe introducing a more effective measure—

as the Legislature did with the Marshals Service bill—would have probably been the better route to take. Rectifying discrepancies in the measure allows for the passage and enactment of a quality bill, rather than having to come back with numerous amendments down the line," Demapan added.

The Senate has yet to schedule a session.

Ex-probation officer tests positive for 'ice' use again

A former CNMI probation officer who is on federal probation after completing a 30-month prison term for extortion tested positive again for use of methamphetamine or "ice."

U.S. Probation Officer Gregory F. Arriola notified the U.S. District Court for the NMI yesterday that Robin N. Sablan tested positive for "ice" use on April 17, 2011.

Arriola stated in his report that Sablan admitted in writing that he used "ice" on April 15, 2011.

Arriola said that after a week, he met with Sablan again and counseled him to refrain from continued drug use.

On May 15, 2011, Arriola said, Sablan failed to show up for his scheduled drug test and indicated he had a medical condition that day.

Sablan again failed to show up for a scheduled drug test on May 19, 2011, telling the Probation Office that he was having a transportation problem.

Arriola asked the court to modify the conditions of supervision by requiring the defendant to prepare a six-page paper about his recovery plan and ways, and present it in a group counseling session and to his probation officer.

Arriola said the defendant will be monitored closely and any other incidences will be reported to the court.

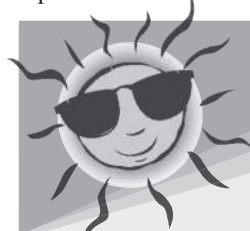
Last month, the U.S. Probation Office also notified the court that Sablan was subject-

ed to a drug test on March 24, 2011, that came back positive for "ice" use. When questioned about the test result, Sablan reportedly admitted smoking "ice" on March 23, 2011.

The court sentenced Sablan in September 2008 to 30 months in


prison for extortion under color of official act.

According to the U.S. government, Sablan extorted money from many probationers when he was still on duty as a CNMI probation officer (*Ferdie de la Torre*)



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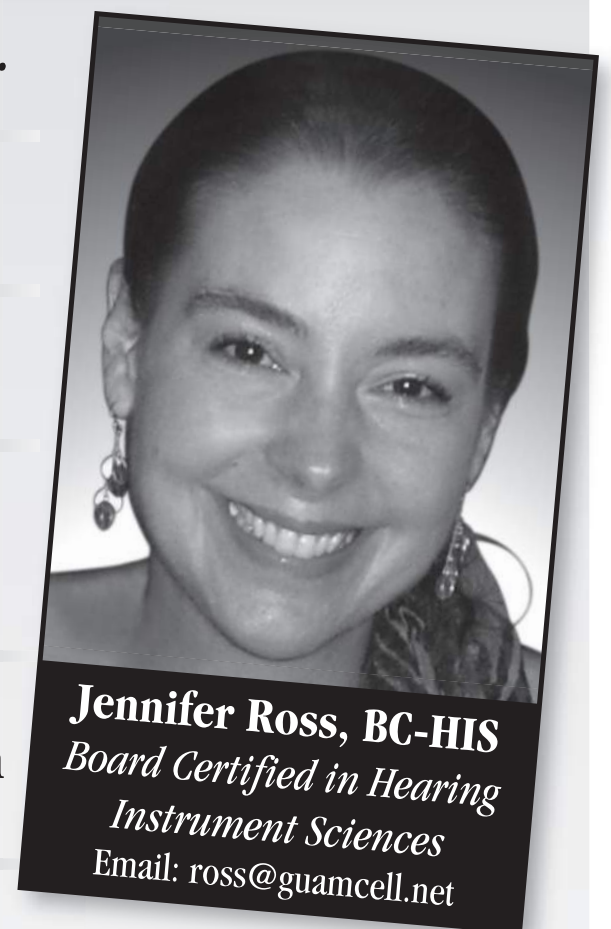
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CNMI cadets to compete in Hawaii drill competitions

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Public School System will form a delegation composed of the best cadets in the Commonwealth to compete in several drill competitions in Hawaii next year.

Lt. Col. Robert Gay said this will be the first time for the Commonwealth's JROTC program to participate and compete off-island.

Gay, PSS director of U.S. Army instruction, confirmed that his counterpart in the Ha-

waii JROTC program had sent an invitation for the CNMI team to take part in the competitions.

Gay said it is about time for the islands' JROTC drill teams to showcase their skill and talents around the region. The first target, he said, is the Oahu, Hawaii drill competitions.

"I am proud of our teams and they all did a great job! I would put these teams against any team that I have seen both in the mainland and Hawaii. What I would try to do now is send our best cadets to Ha-

waii and beat them in almost the same competitions," he told *Saipan Tribune* Saturday at the 9th annual interisland drill competition held over the weekend.

The Manta Ray Battalion of Saipan Southern High School emerged overall team champion in Saturday's islandwide contest at the Marianas High School grounds. The event drew hundreds of participants and spectators.

Cadets in five public high schools in the Commonwealth

competed in various categories, including unarmed drill, armed drill, color guard rifle and saber drills, fancy drill, and rifle drill exhibition.

According to Gay, Hawaii hosts two drill competitions each year where 17 Army JROTC programs participate.

"This will be our first time and I am confident they can beat them."

The CNMI cadets' attendance would depend, however, on the availability of funding.

"As far as the number of

cadets for the competition, it depends on the available funding. But I plan to send more than one team because I want our cadets to experience this opportunity to compete with other states and let them see how good the CNMI is," he said, adding that he plans to send about 30 members.

Members of the delegation will be culled from the five public high schools on Saipan, Rota, and Tinian.

The organizer for the Hawaii Drill Experience in La-

haina, Maui also sent an email to *Saipan Tribune* yesterday, confirming their intention to invite the Manta Ray Battalion to join the contest that will also feature two-time world drill champion Matt Wendling. The organizer added that it will send a formal invitation to the team through the PSS JROTC program.

Drill competitions aim to promote discipline and leadership skills and develop self-confidence, teamwork, and camaraderie.

Pangelinan is still *man'amko's* 'King of the Pool'



Aging Center congregante Jesus Pangelinan, fourth from right, holds his trophy as he has his picture taken with other congregates and contestants of the King of the Table *Man'amko* Pool Tournament yesterday.

By **CLARISSA V. DAVID**
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REPORTER

Jesus Pangelinan remains the undefeated congregante in the "King of the Table: Man'amko Pool Tournament" held Tuesday morning at the Aging Center.

Pangelinan earned bragging rights in the annual tournament after his challenger, 82-year-old Pedro Dela Cruz, scratched the 8-ball in a very close game yesterday.

"You [Pedro] didn't beat me. You beat yourself," he told Dela Cruz right after the game.

Pangelinan, who bested five tournament contenders, also won himself \$60 cash and a trophy.

The two-time champion also won in 2007 and 2008 before fellow congregante Kimo Jordan, who also joined this year's event took the crown in 2009.

As defending titleholder, Pangelinan automatically advanced to the finals after beating Rudy Vidal in the first match.

"It's a very lucky win because Pedro scratched it. He failed to make a position before he hit the ball," he told *Saipan Tribune*.

Nonetheless, Pangelinan said he was very happy that he won.

"I'd like to thank [program coordinator] Walter [Manglona] for organizing the tournament. He always develops plans and activities for the *man'amko*. If we lose Walter, we lose everything," said the grateful champion.

For his part, Dela Cruz said he almost felt victory in his hands. "If I didn't scratch the ball, I could have won. I will just join again next time," he said in an interview.

Dela Cruz got to the finals after defeating Monie Hermedes, who got to the second round after his win over another congregante, Roger Hernandez.

Program coordinator Manglona said yesterday's game was "very exciting and suspenseful."

"It was a very close game. We had a lot of our fans come out to watch our players showcase their skills in the pool table," he said.

Manglona said they plan to hold the tournament at least every quarter. "We want to give the others a chance to win the crown and the trophy," he said.

Culinary instructor dreams big for Kagman High's cooking class

By **CLARISSA V. DAVID**
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REPORTER

The culinary arts program instructor at Kagman High School urged businesses and the rest of the community to support their students by helping showcase their talents and skills.

"We have all these kids around that are really interested in cooking. They want to go beyond just cooking in the classroom. We would like to have some kind of yearly event or maybe once every semester," said Frank Sablan.

A graduate of the Le Cordon Bleu College of Culinary Arts, formerly Western Culinary Institute, Sablan was the guest speaker during Rotary Club of Saipan's meeting on Tuesday at the Giovanni's restaurant of Hyatt Regency Saipan.

Some of their ideas, Sablan said, include breakfast at American Memorial Park, sunset barbecue, and showcasing various business products to encourage customers to come it to these retail stores.

Sablan said that through these ideas and events, the public will

recognize that Kagman High's culinary program "is not just about cooking during class and eating and having fun."

"We want to show our talent and hopefully bring it past the high school level, hopefully bring it on to college or straight to the workforce," he said.

Sablan said they also envision partnering and collaborating with businesses on island, particularly hotels and restaurants, just like what they have in Guam.

In Guam, Sablan said, students who participate in their culinary program are required to take it for three years in a row, keep a 2.5 GPA, and perform 180 hours of work in the business involved, after which the students receive a certificate of mastery.

"Hopefully, we'll have some kind of program going on next year or in the near future where we have an understanding between Kagman High School and businesses on Saipan," he said.

Sablan noted that students need to experience cooking in an actual restaurant to understand the urgency of the job.



Kagman High School Culinary Arts Program instructor Frank Sablan, right, gestures as he talks about the program during the Rotary Club of Saipan meeting yesterday at Hyatt Regency Saipan. Looking on is Rotary president Glen Perez.

Humble beginnings

Sablan, who attended the meeting with vice principal for curriculum and academics Leila

Staffler and student Joey Borja, said their culinary arts program is the only one of its kind among public high schools on Saipan.

Sablan recounted how the program started, back when they had no classroom, equipment, or supplies to begin with.

"I was what they call a roaming teacher, a roamer. We have these little yellow carts where we put all our books and we go from class to class," he said.

Sablan said that when they finally found their own classroom, they had to clean it first. JWS company, along with five or six students, helped clean and prepare the classroom.

"It was a lot of dedication by the students that wanted to see this program proceed and in doing so, they had to take time out of their weekends to come and clean up," he added.

Although they already have an electric stove, gas grill, and ventilation hood, Sablan said their classroom does not come close to what the John F. Kennedy High School in Guam has.

"Everything you see [there] is the same thing you would see in a commercial kitchen," he said.

Still, Sablan said, they are able to do a lot of cooking and participating in different events, including the "Eat Right With Color" Cook-off where three of their entries won, the Teacher Appreciation Week, and the Cinco de Mayo.

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Expanded role for Brown as NMI Ombudsman

WASHINGTON, D.C.—Assistant Secretary of the Interior Tony Babauta, during a meeting with US Attorney Alicia Limtiaco in Guam yesterday, discussed plans to expand the responsibilities of the Interior Department's Northern Marianas Islands Federal Ombudsman to include Guam. The Federal Ombudsman, Pamela Brown, was present for the meeting between Babauta and Limtiaco.

"Initially, I have asked Ombudsman Brown to work closely with USAG Limtiaco in her efforts to raise the awareness of human trafficking issues for the Marianas Archipelago. Even without the realigning of U.S. military forces in the Pacific, there is a growing concern with all types of human trafficking both internationally and domestically which cannot be tolerated by our communities,"

Babauta said.

The Obama Administration stepped up its efforts to raise awareness and to address human trafficking. In its *2010 Trafficking in Persons Report*, the Administration reported on human trafficking for the first time in the United States and its insular areas. In response to that report, President Obama established the Senior Policy Operating Group on Anti-trafficking in Persons, which Babauta was appointed to last year. Further, the report recommended that in order to better combat human trafficking, the United States needed to intensify enforcement and workers rights infra-



Brown

structure, such as ombudsman offices, in insular areas. Expansion of the Northern Marianas Ombudsman's responsibilities to the entire archipelago is the first step in the adoption of that recommendation.

"Since becoming the regional USAG Limtiaco has provided training to law enforcement community in combating human trafficking and to the community to raise awareness of the issues of human trafficking. Officially adding Ms. Brown will supplement her efforts," Babauta said.

Brown provides alien workers with the opportunity to state claims, including human trafficking, to a federal official who can then assist the workers in the appropriate handling of such claims by a local or federal agency. Since the office opened, her office has assisted about 10,000 individuals with such

claims. Of this number, some 320 have been identified as human trafficking victims.

Brown was the first Federal Ombudsman in the CNMI, establishing the Northern Marianas Ombudsman's office in early 1999. In 2002, Pam left the office to work in the administration of former governor Juan N. Babauta, becoming the CNMI Attorney General. Under her tenure, she was responsible for labor and immigration enforcement as well as lead negotiator for the establishment of the first refugee protection program in the CNMI as part of the United States' international treaty obligations. Just prior to returning to the Ombudsman position in 2009, Brown served for a year as executive director of an Orange County, California NGO combating trafficking in S.E. Asia. (DOI)

Babauta to present Guam energy assessment report today

Assistant Secretary for the Interior Tony Babauta will present the initial Guam Energy Assessment Report today, May 25, at 10:30am in the Leon Guerrero School of Business and Public Administration Building, IT&E Lecture Hall room 131.

The report was produced by the National Renewable Energy Laboratory under the direction of the U.S. Department of In-

terior Office of Insular Affairs. NREL conducted an initial technical assessment to establish a baseline and identify energy efficiency and renewable energy opportunities for Guam.

This document is the first of many steps in developing a comprehensive energy strategy.

Babauta will provide an overview of the report and its findings and discuss the next steps to be



Babauta

various scenarios and approaches to deploying cost effective energy efficiency and renewable

energy technologies in a manner that will meet the island's objectives in reducing dependency on imported fossil fuels.

Guam's Energy Task Force is co-chaired by University of Guam president Robert A. Underwood and EPA director Ivan Quinata and was established by Executive Order 2101-15 on May 10, 2010. The meeting is free and open to the public. (DOI)



LT LISA RODMAN

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

While conducting training and exercises in support of Exercise Sea Guardian, crew members of the U.S. Coast Guard cutter *Assateague* also visit a local Palauan elementary school, where the crew educated students on the missions of the U.S. Coast Guard and planted coconut trees with local school children.

New Navy Visitor Control Center to open in Guam

SANTA RITA, Guam—Naval Base Guam will open a new Visitor Control Center for visitors to obtain base clearance as of June 1 at 6am. The VCC is the new name for what has been known as the Pass & ID (P&ID) building, which will cease offering services at noon on May 31.

Commanding Officer Capt. Richard Wood will host an official opening at 9am on June 1.

According to Wood, the new center is more spacious than the current P&ID building. "Current operational needs have

outgrown our old Pass and ID office and this new Center will allow us to be more efficient in processing base access requests," he said.

The interior of the new VCC is twice the size of the P&ID building with a waiting area with chairs and a big screen television.

The location of the new Visitor Control Center is outside the main Naval base front gate and on the backside of the Navy Housing Office building. The NHO is north of and next to the National Park Service Visitor Center. Signs

are posted to clearly mark directions to the VCC.

The service hours remain the same:

- Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday 6am to 6pm
- Thursday 6am to 5pm
- Friday 7am to 4pm
- Closed weekends and holidays

The Department of Defense security clearance procedures remain the same. To obtain a base pass a visitor must arrive at the VCC with their sponsor and present valid photo identification. In

order to drive their vehicle onto the base they must provide a valid driver's license and current vehicle registration and insurance. The sponsor must escort the visitor on base at all times. On weekends, passes can be obtained from the front gate sentry.

Schools, organizations and historical/cultural groups may request information regarding group base access a minimum of three weeks prior to their desired dates from the NBG Public Affairs Office at Annette.donner@fe.navy.mil. (USN)

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

May 25, 1999

PSS can draw \$16M from bank this week

As scheduled, the Public School System will receive on Thursday through an electronic bank transfer the proceeds from the recent sale of the \$15.6 million worth of bonds, the last step to finally begin the construction of its various infrastructure projects. PSS officials expect to draw the money from the local branch of Bank of Hawaii, according to House Ways and Means Committee chair Rep. Karl T. Reyes. "It's ready to be disbursed once the money is here," said the legislator who helped plan the bond flotation when he sponsored the law identifying the source of the loan repayment.

CPA weighs takeover of Outer Cove Marina

The Commonwealth Ports Authority board has directed its legal counsel and financial consultant to study the offer of Marine Revitalization Corp. to takeover the operations of the controversial Outer Cove Marina. This will allow the management and board members to make a decision on whether or not the project would help the ports authority in generating the much-needed revenue. Some \$4 million was spent by the MRC in establishing the marina which has become the subject of a dispute among boat owners who have criticized the safety issue.

May 25, 2000

Garment industry lauds OSHA's support

The joint partnership agreement between the Saipan Garment Manufacturer's Association (SGMA) and U.S. Department of Labor-OSHA Division has now been pledged by two-thirds of Saipan's factories, according to SGMA officials. The partnership, entitled Excellence 2000, now has the voluntary participation of 21 of the associations' 31 members. "We believe our industry has moved to a new level of safety and health compliance here in Saipan," stated SGMA executive director Richard A. Pierce. "OSHA's baseline verification inspections, which is the second step toward acceptance by the federal health and safety office into the Excellence 2000 program, show the rewards of our Code of Conduct and its emphasis on compliance with these federal laws."

Symposium on federal issues organized

Local legislators are preparing for a proposed symposium this August that will discuss comprehensively various federal programs in the CNMI in efforts to enhance their implementation here as well as to maximize use of funds granted by the U.S. government. Sen. David M. Cing, chair of the Federal Relations and Independent Agencies Committee, will head the joint Senate-House committee that will map out the plan for the forthcoming event. His counterpart in the lower house, Rep. Norman S. Palacios, is the vice chair, while Vice Speaker Alejo M. Mendiola is the secretary. Sen. Ramon S. Guerrero and House Floor Leader Oscar M. Babauta are designated spokespersons.

May 25, 2001

NMC Finance Office: Keeping fiscal house in order

The Northern Marianas College's Finance Office has been keeping the institution's fiscal house in order. The mandate of the Finance Office depends largely on the grant of authority given by applicable statutes. Public Law 4-34, the Postsecondary Education Act of 1984, empowers the Board of Regents to "hold in trust for the Commonwealth the property and assets of the College." Public Law 9-53, the Higher Education Act of 1995, further mandates the Board to "expend funds appropriated by the Federal or Commonwealth government or donated to the College by any other entity." The Board shall ensure that appropriate policies and procedures are established to safeguard College assets and that funds are expended appropriately within the limits of the Board-adopted budget and applicable Commonwealth laws.

Hotel industry braces for worst year

The Northern Marianas hotel industry is bracing for what could be its worst year ever, unless the Commonwealth succeeds in luring Japan's family market during the summer months. Notwithstanding a close to 4 percent rise in hotel occupancy rates and a 1.6 percent increase in room rates for the first quarter of 2001, Hotel Association president Ronald D. Sablan said the destination needs to bring in the family segment. He said this particular sector holds a better spending power needed to alleviate the Commonwealth travel industry's present condition. "We need to take advantage of Japan's family market because that particular segment is the one which could lift us out from the doldrums," he said.

GPPC is MMAC major sponsor with \$2K donation



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Photo shows 2011 MMAC accounting committee vice chair Meagan Cruz, left, receives the \$2000 check from GPPC, Inc.'s Dorothy Gauran.

The 2011 Marianas March Against Cancer continues to receive community support from generous donors almost two weeks after the annual event.

GPPC, Inc. has donated \$2,000, which automatically qualifies the company as a major sponsor of the 2011 MMAC.

"The 2011 MMAC commit-

tee expresses its sincere gratitude to the staff and management of GPPC, Inc. for their contribution in the fight against cancer. Their support of this worthy cause is admirable," said 2011 MMAC public relations committee chair Christopher A. Concepcion.

The 2011 Marianas March

Against Cancer was held on May 13-14 at the Hopwood Junior High School field in Chalan Piao.

"We were able to raise nearly \$75,000 as of May 14 but we expect that number to go up as we make our final tally of

all funds raised and donated. We are grateful for the support we've received from all teams, sponsors, supporters and vol-

unteers especially considering the current economic situation we're in right now," said Concepcion. (MMAC)

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Memorial Day proclamation signing today

Lt. Gov. Eloy Inos will proclaim May 25 to May 31 as Memorial Week in a proclamation signing today, May 25, 2011, at 9am, at the Department of Public Health conference room at the Commonwealth Health Center.

The Memorial Day ceremony will be at the CNMI Veterans Cemetery in Marpi on Monday, May 30, at 9:30am. The Pacific Winds Concert Band will begin with the pre-ceremonial music at 8:30am. The keynote speaker will be Brig. Gen. John W. Doucette, commander, 36th Wing Anderson Air Force Base, Guam and deputy commander of Joint Region Marianas. There will also be a B-52 flyover from the 36th Wing, Andersen Air Force Guam and the 96th Expeditionary Bomb Squadron, Minot, North Dakota. (PR)

Broadband townhall meeting on Rota tomorrow

One Economy, CNMI Department of Commerce, BroadMap LLC, and the New America Foundation will be conducting a townhall meeting tomorrow, May 26, 2011, 6:30pm at the Round House, Songsong Village, Rota, to understand residents' attitudes toward broadband. (PR)

SHRM monthly meeting tomorrow

"Immigration Law's Impact on IRs & Other Nonresidents" will be the topic in the May general membership meeting of the

CNMI Chapter of the Society for Human Resource Management set for tomorrow, May 26. Bruce Mailman and Maya Kara, attorneys at law specializing in immigration issues, will make the presentation during the lunch meeting set at the Pacific Islands Club's Charley's Cabaret from 11:30am to 1:30pm.

This presentation is open to the public and will be an invaluable opportunity for employers and employees to learn about the impact that the federalization of Immigration will have on nonresidents in the CNMI, particularly those who are Immediate Relatives (IRs) of U.S. citizens or IRs of lawful permanent residents (LPRs or green card holders).

The presentation includes lunch and the cost is \$20 for SHRM members and \$30 for non-members. Seats are limited, so reserve your seat by contacting SHRM CNMI president Polly DLG Masga at 237-5122 or email her at pollydlg@gmail.com. (PR)

Services to US armed forces

The American Red Cross-NMI Chapter is inviting all U.S. military service members—active, reserve, Guard, and veterans—to attend a "Health & Well Being Workshop" on Saturday, May 28, 2011, at the Pacific Islands Club's Charley's Cabaret.

The workshop, from 8:30am to 12pm, will feature:

- Red Cross "Get to Know Us" briefing
- Ruth Coleman of Veterans affairs

■ VA clinic Medical Associates of the Pacific, LLC.

■ VFW Post Commander

The workshop, breakfast, lunch, and park passes will be provided free of charge for all qualified military service members (DD-214). Military service members are allowed to bring two dependents.

For more information or to register, call or email Leah A. Murphy, Red Cross SAF Coordinator, at 234-3459 or leah.murphy670@gmail.com. (PR)

MHS Class of 1991 sets reunion meeting

The Marianas High School Class of 1991 will be having its 20th reunion. Class members will be meeting on June 3, 2011, at the 13 Fishermen's Pavilion (2nd Pavilion) on Beach Road at 6pm to plan for the reunion. (PR)

Sengebau Poetry Competition postponed

The NMI Council for the Humanities 8th Annual Sengebau Poetry Competition has been postponed to October 2011 and will be included in the upcoming celebration of Humanities Month. (PR)

SCC Corporate Challenge set

The Saipan Chamber of Commerce will hold its annual SCC Corporate Challenge Sunday, May 29, 2011, at the Minatchom Atdao in Susupe at 9:30am. Registration begins at 7:30am. To date, 10 teams have submitted applications. SC traditionally accepts entries from SCC only, but this year has de-

cided to open up registration to non-SCC member companies. SCC members can enter for \$300 and non-SCC member entry is \$400. The SCC Corporate Challenge is a fun event that can be used as a company outing or employee appreciation day. There are competitive races and games with prizes, and a judged tent competition. This year's theme is "Island Style Recycling" where recycled material will be used to decorate individual corporate entry tents. A panel of judges will decide the winners. (SCC)

Registration info for UOG's summer sessions

New student registration for the University of Guam's summer sessions will be held May 26 and 27 by appointment only. Contact the Student Life Office at 735-2271 for the orientation schedule. Late registration for summer session A will be held May 31, 2011. Summer Session A runs May 31 – July 1. Late registration for Summer Session B will be held June 13, 2011. Session B runs June 13- July 29. Late registration for Summer Session C will be held July 5. Session C runs July 5 – August 6. For payment deadlines visit www.uog.edu. (UOG)

More UOG online courses

Extra sections of the online WG 101 Introduction to Women and Gender Studies course are now offered during summer sessions A and C. Contact Dr. Helen Thompson at wg101online@yahoo.com or visit www.uog.edu. (UOG)

BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUTS



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Happy 6th birthday greetings go out to James Warren DeWitt, who is celebrating his special day today, May 25! Greetings come from Mommy, Daddy, Emily, and Abigail.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Happy birthday to Shawna Lyn Mauricio! May you enjoy this day. Greetings come from the family.

Happy 10th birthday to Nygel Limes Waboi! We love you! Greetings come from Dad, Mom, and Bing.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



SHIPPING SCHEDULE



MARIANA
EXPRESS LINES PTE. LTD.

Outbound from Asia	Voyage No.	ETD Jakarta	ETD Bangkok	ETD P. Kelang	ETD Melbourne	ETD Singapore	ETD Hochiminh	ETD Busan	ETD Kobe	ETD Shanghai	ETD Auckland	ETD Manila	ETD Hongkong	ETD Kaoshiung	ETD Naha
MELL SENTOSA	055E	5/14 Sat	5/12 Thu	5/12 Thu	5/10 Tue	5/7 Sat	5/20 Fri	5/16 Mon	5/15 Sun	5/8 Sun	5/8 Sun	5/16 Mon	5/20 Fri	5/22 Sun	5/24 Tue
MELL SARACA	046E	5/21 Sat	5/19 Thu	5/19 Thu	5/17 Tue	5/14 Sat	5/27 Fri	5/23 Mon	5/22 Sun	5/15 Sun	5/15 Sun	5/23 Mon	5/27 Fri	5/29 Sun	5/31 Tue
MELL SEMAKAU	017E	5/28 Sat	5/26 Thu	5/26 Thu	5/24 Tue	5/21 Sat	6/3 Fri	5/30 Mon	5/29 Sun	5/22 Sun	5/22 Sun	5/30 Mon	6/3 Fri	6/5 Sun	6/7 Tue
MELL SENTOSA	056E	6/4 Sat	6/2 Thu	6/2 Thu	5/31 Tue	5/28 Sat	6/10 Fri	6/6 Mon	6/5 Sun	5/29 Sun	5/29 Sun	6/6 Mon	6/10 Fri	6/12 Sun	6/14 Tue
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MELL SEMAKAU	018E	6/18 Sat	6/16 Thu	6/16 Thu	6/14 Tue	6/11 Sat	6/24 Fri	6/20 Mon	6/19 Sun	6/12 Sun	6/12 Sun	6/20 Mon	6/24 Fri	6/26 Sun	6/28 Tue

Inbound from Asia	Voyage No.	ETA Guam	ETA Saipan	ETA Yap	ETA Koror	ETA Davao	ETA GenSan	ETA Cebu	ETA Hongkong	ETA Kaoshiung	ETA Busan	ETA Yokohama	ETA Manila	ETA Singapore
MELL SENTOSA	055E	5/28 Sat	5/29 Sun	5/29 Sun	6/1 Wed	6/2 Thu	6/3 Fri	6/5 Sun	SKIP	6/10 Fri	6/11 Sat	6/16 Thu	7/5 Tue	6/15 Wed
MELL SARACA	047E	6/4 Sat	6/5 Sun	6/5 Sun	SKIP	6/8 Wed	6/10 Fri	6/12 Sun	SKIP	6/17 Fri	6/18 Sat	6/23 Thu	7/12 Tue	6/22 Wed
MELL SEMAKAU	017E	6/11 Sat	6/12 Sun	6/12 Sun	6/14 Tue	6/15 Wed	6/17 Fri	6/19 Sun	SKIP	6/24 Fri	6/25 Sat	6/30 Thu	7/19 Tue	6/29 Wed
MELL SENTOSA	056E	6/18 Sat	6/19 Sun	6/19 Sun	SKIP	6/22 Wed	6/24 Fri	6/26 Sun	SKIP	7/1 Fri	7/2 Sat	7/7 Thu	7/26 Tue	7/6 Wed
MELL SARACA	048E	6/25 Sat	6/26 Sun	6/26 Sun	6/27 Mon	6/29 Wed	7/1 Fri	7/3 Sun	SKIP	7/8 Fri	7/9 Sat	7/14 Thu	8/2 Tue	7/13 Wed
MELL SEMAKAU	018E	7/2 Sat	7/3 Sun	7/3 Sun	SKIP	7/6 Wed	7/8 Fri	7/10 Sun	SKIP	7/15 Fri	7/16 Sat	7/21 Thu	8/9 Tue	7/20 Wed

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Opinion

Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
Volume XXI, Issue No. 122Published daily at 2/F JP Center,
Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, CNMI
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AP The Associated Press

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EDITORIAL

Nurturing the Arab Spring

President Obama sought Thursday to recalibrate the United States' response to the Arab Spring, giving new weight to issues of democracy, freedom and human rights in its approach to a rapidly changing Middle East. But although Obama's words were largely unassailable, they failed to address some of the more difficult realities of foreign policy.

Who could deny—or fail to be stirred by—the president's assertion that the United States opposes tyranny? Or that the United States believes in free speech and self-determination and the right of people everywhere to protest peacefully, whether in Bahrain, Yemen, Syria, Egypt or any other country? As long as they don't turn to violence, the president said, the United States will support them in their calls for freedom of religion, women's rights, economic justice and democracy.

These are long-standing American principles, at least on paper, and the times when the United States has followed through on them around the world have been among its proudest moments. But let's be clear: To say that the U.S. supports freedom and democracy is easy. In practice, foreign policy is a complicated business, and sometimes a morally opaque one. That's why the U.S. has so often found itself colluding with repressive regimes or failing to go to war to protect the innocent or turning a blind eye to gross violations of human rights.

Obama didn't talk enough about the tricky situations. At what point, for example, does it become necessary to go to war to fight on behalf of core American values? Obviously, the U.S. cannot use its military might to solve all the problems of the world, so how should it pick and choose? Nor did the president discuss what to do when our short-term interests clash with our long-term values—as has been the case for many years with Saudi Arabia, a repressive, sexist, undemocratic Islamic monarchy that has been one of the United States' chief allies in the region for decades (in no small measure because it sits on vast quantities of the oil that the U.S. economy subsists on).

And how should the United States choose sides when legitimate interests appear to clash, as in the conflict between Israel and the Palestinians? Obama spoke articulately about the need to reach a two-state solution, but said nothing about, for instance, how to redress the grievances of Palestinian refugees without undermining the very existence of Israel, to which he said the United States has an “unshakeable” commitment.

The president deserves praise for stating clearly that U.S. interests are advanced by a more democratic and prosperous Middle East (and not just by dictators who allow us to drill for oil or base troops in their countries). His determination to reach beyond elites and put the U.S. squarely on the side of the repressed rather than their repressors is truly commendable. But he may find it more difficult than he expects to put his principles into practice, and may find himself explaining his choices again in the years ahead.

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False hopes and their false promises

We don't dispute the fact that several of our local people were lucky and made money during the economic bubble caused by Japanese investment during the 1990's. The question is: Is that type of economic growth going to happen again? Is there going to be another bubble economy financed by outside investors? If so, how would Article 12 support the return of land prices to the levels that existed during the 1990's?

Those prices should be described as an anomalous “event” of the Japanese investment period, rather than an economic indicator or a justification for arguing to preserve Article 12. A financial windfall for several of our people during the 1990's is not an indication that the same profitable outcome would happen again under similar conditions.

As an example, property that once was valued at \$1 million may now be worth only \$100,000. Should a landowner, desperate to sell, continue to wait and suffer and hope that someday the value of that property will again rise to a million dollars? It's a false hope, unless there is an open market for fee simple purchases of that land.

There are many lessons to be learned from the leased transactions that took place in the 1990's. One only need to look at the list of cases filed in the Commonwealth court and the many abandoned properties to understand the adverse impact that Article 12 had on transactions during the investment bubble. If these properties had been bought fee simple, investors would have had a vested interest. They would have stayed in the CNMI or found alternative ways to retain and maintain their investment, continuing to circulate money in our economy and contribute to our tax base.

We strongly dispute the argument that the CNMI, in abolishing Article 12, will suffer the same fate as Guam, with many people being either homeless, landless, or both. The people who sold their land to non-Guamanians did so out of financial necessity or as a freely made choice—but at a profit on an open market. Just like the NMD, they sold their land to move to the States or for medical, educational, and other reasons, but they had the advantage of receiving offers from a larger and more competitive pool of buyers. Some made better choices than others. Wisdom and common sense simply cannot be legislated. If some people are homeless or landless now, it is because they decided to receive the financial benefit of the free market value of their property.

Article 12 allows for only NMD to buy and sell land amongst themselves. The NMD seller will still lose his or her land regardless of who purchased it. The difference is that an NMD buyer has incredible leverage to buy the land at a lower price because of the limited pool of NMD qualified buyers. This still leaves the NMD seller landless and but with less money for his or her land than if it could have been offered on an open and much more competitive market.

Article 12 allows for a 55-year lease term to non-NMD. This 55-year lease term will not only displace succeeding generations but will also deprive them during their life time from benefiting from land that was supposed to be handed down through each generation. So, neither preserving nor extending the current lease term of 55 years will protect successive generations from being landless or homeless. There will still be a generational gap of landless “owners” during the

By DAVID M. SABLAN
Special to the Saipan TribuneDavid M. Sablan is the treasurer of the group
Citizens for Change of Article 12.

long-term lease period. The bottom line is that one does not need Article 12 to decide whether to lease land or sell it outright.

We agree that Article 12 is not totally responsible for our economic downturn. However, it is the primary contributing factor to our declining land values. Investors of the 1990's are not coming back. They have learned from the outcome of many lawsuits that entering into a lease agreement that can be overridden by the courts is simply too large a financial risk to take. The precedents set by lawsuits filed invoking Article 12 clearly are not favorable to an outside investor. Investors have been painfully educated in this matter. Potential investors will do their research of court decisions and are unlikely to make the same mistakes.

What has happened since the 1990's, as we all know, is that property values have plummeted and the number of foreclosures is soaring. The theory of supply and demand implies that with less land, prices should rise. This is obviously not the situation in the CNMI. Why? Even with only a small “supply” of land available to buy and sell in the CNMI, the “demand” is even smaller, restricted by Article 12 to only those who are NMD.

We therefore ask the proponents of Article 12:

- What are the positive effects for maintaining Article 12?
- What are the negative effects for removing Article 12?

One cannot justifiably say Article 12 is good just because it was good in the late 1980's and early 1990's. Foreclosures are hurting homeowners. Federal housing programs available elsewhere in the United States, such as the Veteran Housing Program and others, are not being made available for our local people because of Article 12.

In the meantime, people are becoming desperate and many have had to sell their land inheritance at rock bottom prices. To see how this tragedy has unfolded, one only needs to go to the Recorder's Office and compare land prices over time. Our people are not becoming prosperous from selling their land after the bubble burst.

Proponents of Article 12 have so far failed to clearly illustrate any benefit to preserving Article 12. The price of property after the bubble economy has drastically declined. Is this good for property owners? It may benefit a privileged few who have the money to take advantage of another family's desperate situation. But the bulk of NMD landowners are not seeing any benefit at all under Article 12. In fact, we are facing the impending adulthood of a generation of our own people who do not meet the criteria necessary to qualify as NMD, and so will not be eligible to own land. How will Article 12 benefit them?

Those who have no other alternative but to sell land to pay for a fi-

See FALSE on Next Page

EDITORIAL POLICY

Letters to the editor must include the name, address, and contact number of the contributor. Letters that are critical in nature should focus on issues, not personalities. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Private land is ‘dead capital’

As we critically probe the economic setbacks inherent under Article 12, it becomes obvious how this protectionist land policy has denied our people opportunities to set familial pillars or foundations to enhance their livelihood.

For instance, there's the economic term “dead capital” relating to property that is held where there's uncertainty of ownership. This decreases the value of the asset and/or the ability or opportunity to borrow against it. These lost forms of value are dead capital under Article 12.

Now, the local government owns half of private land here. The other half is under the landowner; an anomalous form of ownership that is ludicrous at best. It places the issue of ownership in limbo where the greater setback is the loss of land value and the inability of the owner to use the equity (value) of his land in order to benefit directly from it.

The denial of using the equity of your land for a loan at the bank is another reason why this provision under the CNMI Constitution must be repealed. In short, if you can't dispose or benefit directly from your private land, then what good is it? But such is the nature of the beast under Article 12. Isn't time that the local government's ownership of half of private lands be brought to final closure?

This provision will also displace the future generations from landownership, if not already. Is it really our intention to ensure the displacement of our children from their rights to landownership? Is it our intention to sever them from their rich cultural heritage? These are anomalous issues inherent under Article 12 that run contrary to culture and tradition of these isles. It's more the reason to repeal Article 12 forthwith! It has become the alienating feature against our own children!

Too, Northern Marianas descent is in fact a political definition that displaced our very own while accommodating others who are non-indigenous. It seems designed to selectively displace the real NMDs who weren't here in 1950. For instance, anyone from the islands in Micronesia (non-NMD) is defined as qualified to own land here if they were on island on Dec. 31, 1950. Our very own Chamorros and Carolinians who weren't here are disqualified from this definition. Is this the envisioned consequence of the found-

ing fathers of the Covenant Agreement now a provision under the CNMI Constitution?

If we can resolve landownership with finality, it should serve as a huge booster in our collective move forward to revive the local economy. It would grant families the opportunity to use the equity of their property for the first family home, education of their children, or the establishment of family businesses that contribute to wealth and jobs creation.

■ ■ ■

Aspiration for strong economy

The development of a strong market economy can grow exponentially if the indigenous people are given full ownership of their land to dispose of with finality. That half belongs to the government is the most ludicrous form of landownership. It decreases the value of the property and denies landowners full benefits of their land.

The net spin off is the suppression of economic opportunities for the indigenous people. By this, I mean the denial of top dollar for the landowner if it involves land sale. He can only sell to his kind (NMDs) most of whom can't cough up the money commensurate with the real value of the property. Thus the landowner sells his property at below market value.

This further translates into marginalization of the indigenous people in entrepreneurship opportunities as to completely leave private industries in the hands of foreigners. I'm sure this isn't part of our vision, is it?

Too, the lack of legal protection for investors has drained all enthusiasm to invest in these isles. After the Hotel Nikko case (judicial system supported the discriminatory provision of Article 12), plans for a \$1.5 billion investment were scrapped permanently. I've seen this report and the projected wealth and jobs creation slated for the CNMI that is gone for good. Its scrapping was prompted by the legal system that upheld discriminatory policy on what could have been forged into a lasting partnership.

Emergence of land sharks

The exclusion of equal protection for all U.S. citizens has generated two strange business practices, legal and extra legal. The latter is com-

demeanor throughout it all. That mentality shaped how he would live the rest of his life. He had a love of country. He was proud of his service in the U.S. Marine Corps, where he served a tour of duty in Vietnam. Along with that, he was definitely a handsome person; such is the case with the pictures of him in younger years, which were used as part of his obituary.

He had an adventurous spirit, always looking for the next big rush; a habit that led to his becoming one of our island's pioneering entrepreneurs. He ran car dealerships, tour companies, and brought the concept of extreme sports to these tiny rocks with motocross races and other events during the island's golden years. It was that attitude that inspired individuals like “The Master MC” Gordon Marciano, and even his own son, Justis, who most people know as “Cuki,” to be entrepreneurs in their own right, helping inspire others under them to make a name for themselves, which in turn would help these islands we call ours.

The accomplishment that I believe Ray was proud of the most was that of being a caring and loving father and grandfather. He was a man who loved his children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren, and cherished every day he spent with them. Whether it was seeing his daughter graduate from high school, or watching his young son participate in his first boxing match, he was there to be that driving force in their lives, to give that extra effort and never give up no matter the circumstances. In turn, they ended up carving their own niches in this community he loved so much—so much that he wanted to be buried here when the time came for the Lord to tell him “hāgu next” to enter the heavenly gates.

Despite being from another island, Ray loved this place just as much as he loved living in general. He took that same love for life, and let it radiate around every place he set his feet on, and to every person he came in contact with. In the world that we live in today, sometimes it's difficult to find people who put smiles on our faces and keep us positive. Ray was one of those people. For everything

the artificially depressed market prices Article 12 creates. We need to end this.

The golden days touted by proponents of Article 12 are gone, long gone. Abolishment of Article 12 would increase investor confidence and give property owners a better chance to see a gain on their investment. Property owners that can no longer afford to pay their mortgage or debts because of the economy and/or governmental austerity programs could more likely sell their

By **JOHN DELROSARIO**

Special to the Saipan Tribune

DelRosario is a regular contributor to the Saipan Tribune's Opinion Section.



posed of unscrupulous legal eagles and Oriental business associates who buy the balance of private land leases (55-year leases) by offering additional money to the landowner. But here's the catch: You sign that agreement and your land becomes their land when the original land lease expires. It's an egregious form of exploitation seemingly permissible under Article 12. This is wrong and must be rectified by repealing Article 12.

You see, this form of exploitation definitely denies landowners their property permanently and further denies their children and grandchildren future economic benefits they rightfully deserve. In short, this is the net effect of Article 12, limiting land purchase to NMDs who have amassed properties using front money from filthy rich business associates from foreign countries. Thus, the birth of exploitation by our very own kind is ignored; are we saying it's fine if it is done by an NMD? Call it unjust enrichment born by the race-based provision of Article 12. Land sharks found a loophole to fill their pockets. Isn't this the most egregious form of exploitation, coming from our very own perceptually protected by the feel-good provisions of Article 12?

Definitely, in an economy where uncertainty has driven most folks into abject poverty, they'd salivate when these offers are made and would fall for it given the urgency to scaffold family needs. But given the chance to renegotiate another long-term lease when the current terms expire, the landowner can make thousands of dollars more as the sole arbiter in the disposition of his land, including continued ownership. It's time to repeal Article 12! Let us end this exploitation forthwith and go after these land sharks when we have rendered repeal of this provision of the Constitution. We owe it our children!

he did in this life, I can say that Ray left this life a better place than it was before, and for that, he deserves all the love and dedications he has gotten with his passing.

The loss of a loved one is never easy, especially someone beloved as this man was. But we are thankful that there is such a thing that exists in this world called “memories.” Though he may not be here physically, his loved ones, his wife, his children, his grand- and great-grandchildren, and his friends can take solace in the fact that with the multitude of good times they shared with him, he will never be gone and he will continue to live on in their hearts.

Though I never got the chance to get to know him personally, the brief time I knew him will be a part of my life I will treasure. He was a man so warm in attitude and gentle in demeanor, definitely somebody who will be truly missed. I know I'll miss seeing him driving up and down Beach Road, sometimes in a pickup or in one of the classic rides he loved driving from time to time. And I know that when Trench Warz goes down next month, it won't be the same without him sitting in his usual seat near the cage. But I can take solace in the fact that he now goes from watching from the front row, to watching in a skybox; there's no better seat in the world, or in the universe, that compares to that.

So Mr. Alvarez, I join the rest of your family, your friends, and those whose lives you touched in one way, shape, or form, in celebrating the life you lived. You were truly a class act and someone created in an entirely different mold. I hope that the prayers being said for you in this life will carry you on through to the next one. One thing for sure, heaven will be a cooler place now that you're there.

Adios Siñot. Ta fan asuda ta'lo gi nuebu na lina'la. Semper fi!
Carry on!

LJ Castro

Fina Sisu, Saipan

Letter to the Editor

In memoriam

Two weeks ago, the CNMI community came together to join in the fight against a disease that in one way or the other has affected every person who calls the CNMI home. That disease is cancer. Hundreds gathered to both honor those who have passed on and those who have survived the ordeal. As an event host, it is one of the events held on island I gladly volunteer my time for, because this illness not only affects the person it strikes but everyone who considers that person special.

In the wee hours of the morning at that event, I found myself making an announcement that, despite my experience of speaking in front of big crowds, I have never gotten used to making. I was asked to inform the crowd of the passing of a person who, for years, the March Against Cancer has honored as a survivor of cancer. He died after the lap change, which usually marks the halfway portion of the relay. He was an individual who helped many people as well as this community with both his love for it and his love of itself. That person was Raymond Frank Alvarez.

For many of those who knew Ray, it was a loss hard to fathom. Here was a figure, so strong in both mind and body, gone. Despite the short time I knew him, it affected me as well, especially with my work as ring announcer for his son's Trench Tech MMA Promotion and I knew the pain the family was feeling because I lost my father at a young age. As the days went by, after listening to the stories his friends and family would share after the rosaries and viewings, I came to the conclusion that “Pops,” as he was affectionately called, was truly something special.

Born in Sinajana, Guam, he displayed a zeal for life that was unparalleled. Ray always tried to succeed in what he did and was never afraid of grabbing the bull by the horns, keeping a positive

FALSE

From Page 10

nancial obligation or emergency are held hostage, forced to either sell quickly at a loss or suffer the consequences of not paying their debts.

Those whose properties are being foreclosed are disadvantaged in that they are not able to recover any of their investment due to






property for more than what they owe. This capital gain would help them finance the start of a new and better life. It is now time to abolish Article 12.

Article 12 was created to protect the real property rights of NMD until they became educated enough about the subject to manage on their own. It has done its job, we have been educated enough. It is time to rid ourselves of the fear that our heirs who do not meet the NMD blood requirement for land ownership will be deprived of their just inheritance.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
				
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲88° ▼77°	▲88° ▼77°	▲88° ▼77°	▲88° ▼77°	▲88° ▼77°

Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Thundershowers	▲87 ▼80
Palau	Rain	▲84 ▼78
Yap	Thunderstorms	▲84 ▼77
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	▲83 ▼76
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	▲84 ▼76
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	▲87 ▼80
Majuro	Thunderstorms	▲85 ▼78

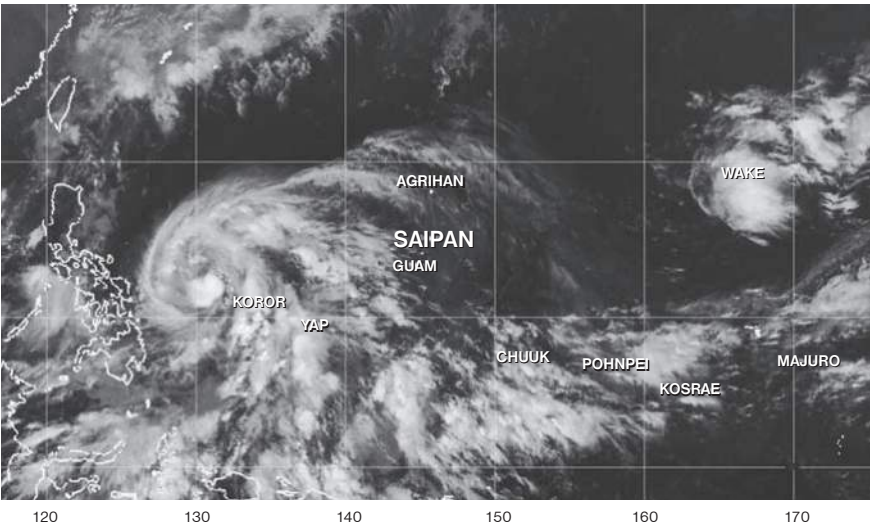
Around The Globe

Auckland	Rain	▲65 ▼60
Beijing	Mostly Sunny	▲85 ▼59
Hong Kong	Thundershowers	▲85 ▼77
Honolulu	Sunny	▲83 ▼74
London	Showers	▲60 ▼52
Los Angeles	Sunny	▲73 ▼58
Manila	Thundershowers	▲89 ▼79
Melbourne	Partly Cloudy	▲58 ▼46
Miami	Mostly Sunny	▲88 ▼77
New York	Showers	▲80 ▼62
Osaka	Mostly Cloudy	▲77 ▼62
Paris	Showers	▲66 ▼50
Pusan	Showers	▲67 ▼60
Rome	Mostly Sunny	▲81 ▼61
Salem	Rain	▲56 ▼46
San Francisco	Showers	▲58 ▼51
Seoul	Partly Cloudy	▲77 ▼59
Tokyo	Partly Cloudy	▲73 ▼60
Washington, DC	Partly Cloudy	▲84 ▼67

Tides

Saipan Harbor			
2:14 AM	Today	High Tide:	1.8 Feet
8:41 AM	Today	Low Tide:	0.9 Feet
1:22 PM	Today	High Tide:	1.4 Feet
7:56 PM	Today	Low Tide:	0.5 Feet

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, TUESDAY, MAY 24, 2011
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Tropical Storm Songda (04W) is centered 425 miles northwest of Koror at 12N131E. Tropical Storm Songda is moving west-northwestward at 8 mph with maximum sustained winds of 65 mph. Numerous showers and scattered thunderstorms are found within 100 miles of the center. For more detailed information on Songda, see bulletins issued by the Joint Typhoon Warning Center under WMO header WTPN31 PGTW and by National Weather Service Guam under WMO header WTPQ31 PGUM. A monsoon trough extends southeastward from 12N130E through Songda to end at 10N139E. Winds converging near and south of the trough axis are generating scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms over Koror and Yap or south of a line from 10N130E to 13N134E to 10N138E. Trade winds converging to the northeast of Songda are producing scattered showers and a few thunderstorms between Guam and Yap within 110 miles of a line from 13N133E to 11N142E. Trade-wind convergence is generating a broad area of scattered showers over Yap, Chuuk, Pohnpei and Kosrae states to the south of a line from 6N139E to 9N152E to 9N162E. Scattered showers are found east of Kwajalein within 140 miles of a line from 10N169E to 11N178E and also southeast of Majuro within 110 miles of a line From 5N171E to 5N180. An upper-level low is centered at 18N164E. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms are found over Wake Island between 16N and 22N from 163E to 174E.

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	5:46 AM	6:41 PM
Thursday	5:46 AM	6:42 PM
Friday	5:46 AM	6:42 PM
Saturday	5:46 AM	6:42 PM
Sunday	5:46 AM	6:43 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	12:23 AM	12:30 PM
Thursday	12:59 AM	1:17 PM
Friday	1:34 AM	2:03 PM
Saturday	2:10 AM	2:50 PM
Sunday	2:47 AM	3:38 PM

GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

PICTURES

- **ISLAND SNAPSHOTS**
Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- **BIRTHDAY GREETINGS**
A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- **BUSINESS**
Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- **SAMUT SARI**
Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- **TRAVELOGUE**
Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **COMMUNITY BRIEFS**

Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.

CAMPUS BULLETIN

Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

REQUIREMENTS

For pictures:

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when),

the name of contact person, and a phone number.

- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

HOW TO SUBMIT

- E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com or jayvee_vallejera@saipantribune.com.
 - Fax: (670) 235-3740
 - Mail: PMB 34, P.O. Box 10001, Saipan, CNMI 96950
 - Drop off: 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
- To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

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- The *Saipan Tribune* will decide how often community announcements are going to be published.
- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

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SUBSCRIPTION Published Monday to Saturday, *Saipan Tribune* offers door-to-door on-island delivery at an annual rate of \$160. For additional subscription information, call (670) 235-8747 or 235-2769, or fax 235-3740.

ADVERTISING For inquiries contact (670) 235-2769. E-mail: sales@saipantribune.com

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF MAY 10, 2011

DEPARTURES				ARRIVALS			
SAIPAN-GUAM				GUAM-SAIPAN			
C09317	4:25am	5:15am	Daily	C09316	2:45am	3:35am	Daily
C09313	7:55am	8:45am	3, 6	C09596	6:35am	7:25am	3, 6
C09313	8:30am	9:20am	1, 2, 4, 5, 7	C09596	7:00am	7:50am	1, 2, 4, 5, 7
C09601	12:10pm	1:00pm	1, 4, 5, 7	C09600	10:05am	10:55am	1, 2, 4, 5, 7
C09603	3:05pm	3:55pm	1, 2, 4, 5, 7	5K389	1:35pm	2:25pm	1, 4, 6
5K382	6:00pm	6:50pm	2, 5, 7	C09602	1:40pm	2:30pm	1, 4, 5, 7
C09605	6:30pm	7:20pm	Daily	C09604	5:10pm	6:00pm	Daily
C09599	9:30pm	10:20pm	Daily	C09606	8:00pm	8:50pm	Daily
SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)				NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN			
DL287	6:00am	8:45am	Daily	DL298	10:25am	3:00pm	Daily
DL297	4:35pm	7:20pm	Daily	DL288	8:05pm	12:35am+1	Daily
SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)				BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN			
OZ608	3:20am	6:50am	1, 5	OZ607	9:00pm	2:20am+1	4, 7
SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)				SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN			
OZ606	2:20am	6:00am	1	OZ603	9:00am	2:30pm	2, 4, 6, 7
OZ606	2:50am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7	OZ605	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
OZ604	3:30pm	7:00pm	2, 4, 6, 7	OZ605	8:10pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)				SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN			
MU590	4:30am	7:20am	2, 6	MU589	8:50pm	3:30am+1	1, 5
3U8648	6:10am	8:40am	1, 5	3U8647	10:40pm	5:00am+1	4, 7
SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)				GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN			
3U8646	4:20am	7:30am	2, 4	3U8645	7:40pm	3:00am+1	1, 5
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)				MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN			
OZ606/701	2:20am	11:25am	1 via ICN	OZ704/603	12:10am	2:30pm	2, 4, 6, 7 via ICN
OZ606/701	2:50am	11:25am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN	DL172/288	7:45am	12:35am+1	Daily via NRT
C09317/891	4:25am	9:45am	3, 6 via GUM	C0890/9606	10:55am	8:50pm	3, 6 via GUM
DL287/173	6:00am	10:15pm	Daily via NRT	OZ702/605	12:45pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
C09313/933	7:55am	8:40pm	3, 6 via GUM	OZ702/605	12:45pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
C09603/933	3:05pm	8:40pm	1, 2, 4, 5, 7 via GUM	C0892/9596	9:55pm	7:50am+1	2, 5 via GUM-Palau
C09603/893	3:05pm	10:10pm	2, 5 via GUM-Palau	PR110/C09596	10:15pm	7:25am+1	6 via GUM
OZ604/703	3:20pm	11:00pm	2, 4, 6, 7 ICN	PR110/C09596	10:15pm	7:50am+1	1, 2, 4, 7 via GUM
OZ604/715	3:20pm	11:30pm	7	C0934/9596	10:55pm	7:50am+1	1, 4, 7 via GUM
C09599/PR111	9:30pm	7:50am+1	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM	C0934/9596	10:55pm	7:25am+1	3, 6 via GUM
				C0934/9596	11:25pm	7:50am+1	2, 5 via GUM
SAIPAN-HONG KONG				HONG KONG-SAIPAN			
OZ606/721	2:20am	11:50am	1 via ICN	OZ724/603	12:30am	2:20pm	2, 4, 6, 7 via ICN
OZ606/721	2:50am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN	OZ750/603	1:00am	2:20pm	2, 4, 6, 7 via ICN
C09603/909	3:05pm	9:25pm	1, 5 via GUM	5K169	9:55am	5:00pm	2, 5, 7
5K168	3:25pm	6:35pm	1, 4, 6	OZ722/605	1:25pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ604/749	3:30pm	11:00pm	2, 4, 6, 7 via ICN	OZ722/605	1:25pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
				C0910/9596	10:30pm	7:50am+1	1, 5 via GUM
Editor's Note: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 5K: FlyGuam; 3U: Sichuan Airlines; MU: China Eastern; CZ: China Southern; CO: Continental; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana				ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The <i>Saipan Tribune</i> is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)			

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency	Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam-Rota				FRE 113	11:40	11:50	Daily
FRE 100	7:30	8:00	Daily	FRE 115	13:00	13:10	Daily
Rota-Saipan				FRE 117	14:30	14:40	Daily
FRE 100	8:20	8:50	Daily	FRE 119	16:00	16:10	Daily
Guam-Rota				FRE 121	16:40	16:50	Daily
FRE 300	17:00	17:30	Daily	FRE 123	17:40	17:50	Daily
Rota-Saipan				FRE 125	18:30	18:40	Daily
FRE 100	17:50	18:20	Daily				
Saipan-Rota				Tinian-Saipan			
FRE 200	9:30	10:00	Daily	FRE 102	7:05	7:15	Daily
Rota-Guam				FRE 104	7:50	8:00	Daily
FRE 100	10:20	10:45	Daily	FRE 106	8:20	8:30	Daily
Saipan-Rota				FRE 108	9:00	9:10	Daily
FRE 400	18:55	19:25	Daily	FRE 110	10:00	10:10	Daily
Rota-Guam				FRE 112	11:05	11:15	Daily
FRE 400	19:40	20:10	Daily	FRE 114	12:00	12:10	Daily
Saipan-Tinian				FRE 116	13:30	13:40	Daily
FRE 101	6:45	6:55	Daily	FRE 118	14:50	15:00	Daily
FRE 103	7:30	7:40	Daily	FRE 120	16:20	16:30	Daily
FRE 105	8:00	8:10	Daily	FRE 122	17:00	17:10	Daily
FRE 107	8:40	8:50	Daily	FRE 124	18:05	18:15	Daily
FRE 109	9:10	9:20	Daily	FRE 126	18:50	19:00	Daily
FRE 111	10:45	10:55	Daily				



NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

Business

DNA evidence said to link ex-IMF leader to maid

NEW YORK (AP)—Test results returned Monday found that DNA from former International Monetary Fund leader Dominique Strauss-Kahn matched material on the work clothes of a Manhattan hotel maid who says he attacked her, two people familiar with the investigation told The Associated Press.

The two people would not describe the material found on the shirt, but said DNA matched a sample from Strauss-Kahn, who submitted to testing after his arrest more than a week ago. He denies the charges.

The two people said additional testing was being performed on other items. They were not authorized to speak publicly about the matter and spoke to the AP on condition of anonymity.

During their investigation, authorities cut out a piece of carpet and swabbed sinks and other surfaces in his hotel room. Investigators told the AP they believed the carpet in the hotel room may contain Strauss-Kahn's semen, spat



France's Socialist Party presidential hopeful Dominique Strauss-Kahn, right, with his wife Anne Sinclair are seen in this Thursday, Nov. 16, 2006 file photo after voting in Sarcelles, outside Paris. AP

out after an episode of forced oral sex by the maid.

The forensic evidence is the first to link Strauss-Kahn to the woman—and it's also on track

with what his lawyers have suggested would be his defense.

Strauss-Kahn's attorney Benjamin Brafman declined to comment on Monday. At a

court hearing last week, he told a judge that forensic evidence developed in the investigation "will not be consistent with a forcible encounter"—leading

to speculation that Strauss-Kahn's defense would argue that it was consensual.

NYPD spokesman Paul J. Browne and the Manhattan district attorney's office would not comment.

The one-time French presidential contender has been charged with a criminal sex act, attempted rape and sexual abuse and is free on \$1 million bail, under house arrest at a lower Manhattan apartment. He has been accused of attacking the 32-year-old West African immigrant on May 14 in his luxury suite at the Sofitel hotel near Manhattan's Times Square. His lawyers say he is innocent.

Staff at the Sofitel told authorities that the 62-year-old had made passes at them the day before the alleged attack, including flirting with a clerk and calling another employee to ask her up to his room, according to a third person with direct knowledge of investigators' interviews with staff.

Strauss-Kahn had flirted with one female staff member who accompanied him to his suite to make sure his accommodations were satisfactory after he checked in on May 13, the per-

son said. Later, he phoned the desk clerk who had checked him in, asking her if she would like to get together with him when she got off duty, the person said. The desk clerk refused, saying she was not allowed to socialize with the VIP guest, the person said.

That person also wasn't authorized to speak publicly and spoke to the AP on condition of anonymity.

On Monday, lawyers for Strauss-Kahn continued to search for new digs for their client as he awaits trial. His bail agreement hit a snag late last week after tenants at the Upper East Side apartment building chosen for his house arrest refused to allow him, citing unwanted media attention.

Strauss-Kahn is currently being housed at a temporary location under watch by armed guards with Stroz Friedberg, the same company that guarded disgraced financier Bernard Madoff. It was not clear when he would be moved. French and U.S. media have been staking out the building where Strauss-Kahn spent the weekend after he was released from his Rikers Island jail cell.

Tax cheats among recipients of stimulus money

WASHINGTON (AP)—Thousands of companies that cashed in on President Barack Obama's economic stimulus package owed the government millions in unpaid taxes, congressional investigators have found.

The Government Accountability Office, in a report being released Tuesday, said at least 3,700 government contractors and nonprofit organizations that received more than \$24 billion from the stimulus effort owed \$757 million in back taxes as of Sept. 30, 2009, the end of the budget year.

The report said the tax delin-

quents accounted for nearly 6 percent of the 63,000 contractors and grantees examined and cautioned that the real number might be higher because the known tax debt does not measure such factors as income underreporting.

Among the examples was an engineering firm that received a \$100,000 stimulus act contract but owed \$6 million in taxes. The IRS called it "an extreme case of noncompliance." A social services nonprofit that received more than \$1 million in stimulus funds owed taxes of \$2 million.

The GAO referred those two cases and 13 others to the IRS

for further investigation.

On Tuesday, a Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs subcommittee will hold a hearing on the report.

Federal law does not prohibit tax delinquents from getting government contracts or grants, though there are provisions that enable the government to withhold payments in some cases. While the federal government requires contractors to present documentation that their taxes are paid, some recipients escaped federal review because the money was disbursed at state or local levels.

Sen. Carl Levin, D-Mich., chairman of the investigations subcommittee holding the hearing, said it's been known for years that a few federal contractors and grantees don't pay their taxes.

He said a program to recover funds from tax delinquents has been strengthened, and "the executive branch has made it clear" that nonpayment of tax can be grounds for denying a specific contract or barring a contractor from bidding on any contract. He added that the executive branch should "get on with it" and bar "the worst of the tax cheats from the contractor workforce."

Delta, US Airways try again on slot swap

By **JOSHUA FREED**
AP AIRLINES WRITER

US Airways Group Inc. and Delta Air Lines Inc. are again asking regulators to allow them to swap takeoff and landing rights for dozens of flights in New York and Washington.

The swap would remake the competitive landscape in two of the nation's most competitive air markets. But their attempt for a similar deal fell apart last year after the Transportation

Department imposed restrictions that the airlines said were too onerous.

The deal announced Monday calls for Delta to give US Airways 42 slot pairs at Reagan National Airport in Washington, \$66.5 million in cash, and the right to add another daily flight to Sao Paulo, Brazil, in 2015. In exchange, Delta would get 132 slot pairs at LaGuardia airport in New York. Each slot pair is the right for one takeoff and one landing.

The airlines are offering to give up eight slot pairs at Reagan and 16 at LaGuardia. That's still less than what the Transportation Department said it wanted last year: 14 at Reagan and 20 at LaGuardia.

Also, the airlines last year wanted to choose who would get the slots. The government wanted an auction. The airline filing on Monday left it to DOT to approve a process for transferring slots to new competitors. The airlines noted in their

filing with the Transportation Department that Southwest Airlines Co.'s acquisition of AirTran has given it access to Reagan airport for the first time, and JetBlue has begun flying there as well. They said there is more competition from discount carriers at those airports now than what the government originally sought.

Whether that will be enough for the government to approve it remains to be seen. Transportation Department spokesman Bill Mosley said the agency would review the filing.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Cisco sued for helping China build Golden Shield

WASHINGTON (AP)—Members of the Falun Gong spiritual movement have filed a lawsuit against Cisco Systems Inc. accusing it of supplying the Chinese government with computer-networking equipment used to spy on and persecute dissidents. In a lawsuit filed last week, a group of Falun Gong practitioners alleges that Cisco provided networking gear and technical assistance to build and operate an elaborate system of Internet controls used by the Chinese government to track the online behavior of its citizens and block content it does not like.

Chrysler to repay government loans Tuesday

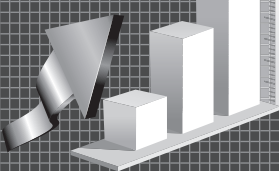
MACOMB TOWNSHIP, Mich. (AP)—Chrysler CEO Sergio Marchionne said Monday that his company will save \$300 million in interest a year when it repays \$7.5 billion in U.S. and Canadian

government loans on Tuesday. Chrysler plans to announce the repayment at a Detroit-area auto assembly plant on Tuesday afternoon. Ron Bloom, the Obama administration official who oversaw the restructuring of the auto industry, is among those scheduled to attend.

Asian markets soft as Europe debt concerns linger

BANGKOK (AP)—Sharp losses on Wall Street and fears that Europe's debt crisis might be spreading to larger economies contributed to a mostly soft opening on Asian markets Tuesday. Japan's Nikkei 225 ended the morning session less than 0.1 percent down at 9,452.53, as the country's powerhouse export sector slumped on a strengthening yen. Hitachi Ltd. and Toyota Motor Corp. were 0.9 percent down, while Sharp Corp. lost 0.7 percent. Hong Kong's Hang Seng was nearly 0.1 percent down. Shares in mainland China, the Philippines and Taiwan also headed south.

STOCK PORTFOLIO



LEADING INDICATORS

DOW	S&P	NASDAQ
12,381.30	1,317.37	2,758.90
-130.78	-15.90	-44.42
-1.05%	-1.19%	-1.58%

EXCHANGE RATES

In U.S. dollar terms			
Australian Dollar	0.9515	Hong Kong Dollar	7.7777
British Pound	0.6207	Indian Rupee	45.235
Canadian Dollar	0.9776	Indonesian Rupiah	8,592.5
Chinese Yuan	6.5067	Japanese Yen	81.9885
Euro	0.7123	Malaysian Ringgit	3.0618
		New Zealand Dollar	1.266
		Philippine Peso	43.409
		Singapore Dollar	1.2489
		South Korean Won	1,097.80
		Swiss Franc	0.8842
		Taiwan Dollar	28.9275
		Thailand Baht	30.410

Nation

Rescuers race to find survivors of Joplin tornado

JOPLIN, Mo. (AP)—Rescue crews dug through piles of splintered houses and crushed cars Monday in a search for victims of a half-mile-wide tornado that killed at least 116 people when it blasted much of this Missouri town off the map and slammed straight into its hospital.

It was the nation's deadliest single twister in nearly 60 years and the second major tornado disaster in less than a month.

Authorities feared the toll could rise as the full scope of the destruction comes into view: house after house reduced to slabs, cars crushed like soda cans, shaken residents roaming streets in search of missing family members. And the danger was by no means over. Fires from gas leaks burned across town, and more violent weather loomed, including the threat of hail, high winds and even more tornadoes.

At daybreak, the city's south side emerged from darkness as a barren, smoky wasteland.

"I've never seen such devastation—just block upon block upon block of homes just completely gone," said former state legislator Gary Burton who showed up to help at a volunteer center at Missouri Southern State University.

Unlike the multiple storms that killed more than 300 people last month across the South, Joplin was smashed by just one exceptionally powerful tornado.

Not since a June 1953 tornado in Flint, Mich., had a single twister been so deadly. That storm also killed 116, according to the National Weather Service.

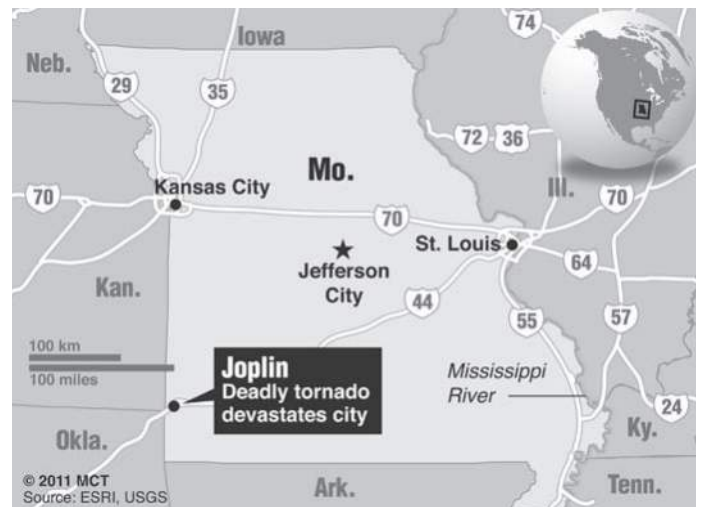
Authorities were prepared to find more bodies in the rubble throughout this gritty, blue-collar town of 50,000 people about 160 miles south of Kansas City.

Gov. Jay Nixon told The Associated Press he did not want to guess how high the death toll would eventually climb. But he said: "Clearly, it's on its way up."

Seventeen people were pulled alive from the rubble. An unknown number of people



An undamaged crucifix rises above the rubble of St. Mary's Catholic Church in Joplin, Mo., Monday, May 23, 2011.



Radio host says the world's end actually coming in Oct.

OAKLAND, Calif. (AP)—As crestfallen followers of a California preacher who foresaw the world's end strained to find meaning in their lives, Harold Camping revised his apocalyptic prophecy Monday, saying he was off by five months and the Earth actually will be obliterated on Oct. 21.

Camping, who predicted that 200 million Christians would be taken to heaven Saturday before global cataclysm struck the planet, said he felt so terrible when his doomsday message did not come true that he left home and took refuge in a motel with his wife. His independent ministry, Family Radio International, spent millions—some of it from donations made by followers—on more than 5,000 billboards and 20 RVs plastered with the Judgment Day message.

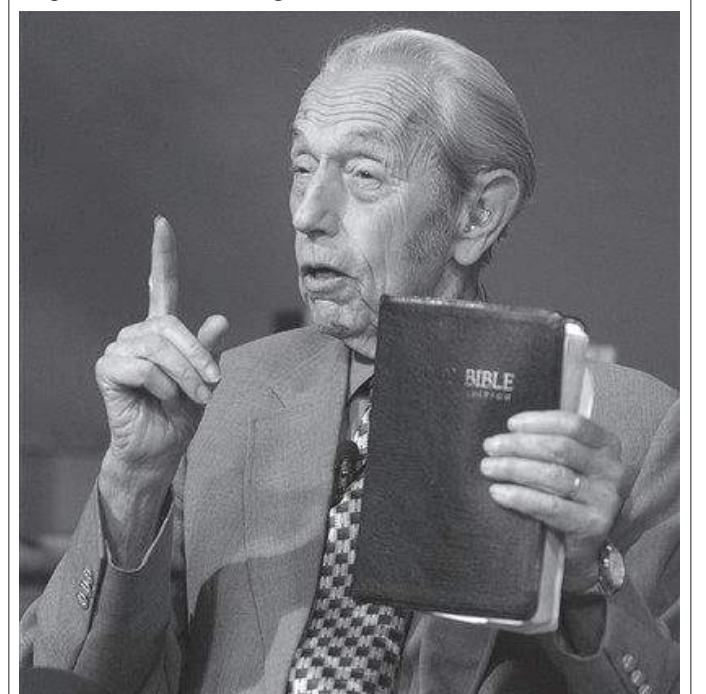
Follower Jeff Hopkins also spent a good deal of his own retirement savings on gas money to power his car so people would see its ominous lighted sign showcasing Camping's May 21 warning. As the appointed day drew nearer, Hopkins started making the

100-mile round trip from Long Island to New York City twice a day, spending at least \$15 on gas each trip.

"I've been mocked and scoffed and cursed at and I've been through a lot with this lighted sign on top of my car," said Hopkins, 52, a former television producer who lives in Great River, N.Y. "I was doing what I've been instructed to do through the Bible, but now I've been stymied. It's like getting slapped in the face."

Camping, who made a special appearance before the press at the Oakland headquarters of the media empire Monday evening, apologized for not having the dates "worked out as accurately as I could have."

Through chatting with a friend over what he acknowledged was a very difficult weekend, it dawned on him that instead of the biblical Rapture in which the faithful would be swept up to the heavens, May 21 had instead been a "spiritual" Judgment Day, which places the entire world under Christ's judgment, he said.



In a Dec. 12, 2002 file photo, Harold Camping speaks while holding the Bible during his live television broadcast, in San Leandro, Calif.

were hurt.

While many residents had up to 17 minutes of warning, rain and hail may have drowned out the sirens.

Larry Bruffy said he heard the first warning but looked out from his garage and saw nothing. "Five minutes later, the second warning went off," he said. "By the time we tried to get under the house, it already went over us."

As rescuers toiled in the debris, a strong thunderstorm lashed the crippled city. Rescue

crews had to move gingerly around downed power lines and jagged chunks of debris as they hunted for victims and hoped for survivors. Fires, gas fumes and unstable buildings posed constant threats.

Teams of searchers fanned out in waves across several square miles. The groups went door to door, making quick checks of property that in many places had been stripped to their foundations or had walls collapse.

National Weather Service Di-

rector Jack Hayes said the storm was given a preliminary label as an EF4—the second-highest rating assigned to twisters based on the damage they cause.

Hayes said the storm had winds of 190 to 198 mph. At times, it was three-quarters of a mile wide.

Some of the most startling damage was at St. John's Regional Medical Center, where staff had only moments to hustle their patients into the hallway. Six people died there, five of them patients, plus one visitor.

High court to Calif.: Cut prison inmates by 30,000

SACRAMENTO, Calif. (AP)—The U.S. Supreme Court ruled Monday that California must drastically reduce its prison population to relieve severe overcrowding that has exposed inmates to increased violence, disease and death. The decision, however, doesn't mean the prison gates will swing open in an uncontrolled release.

The high court's 5-4 decision calls on the state to cut the population to no more than 110,000 inmates. To get there, state officials have two years to either transfer some 33,000 inmates to

other jails or release them.

California has already been preparing for the ruling, driven as much by persistent multibillion dollar budget deficits as by fears for the well-being of prison inmates and employees. The state has sent inmates to other states. It plans to transfer jurisdiction over others to counties, though the state doesn't have the money to do it.

"They've made a lot of plans already," said Michael Bien, one of the attorneys who sought the ruling on behalf of mentally and physically ill inmates who suffered in severe-

ly crowded conditions. "We're sure it can be done safely and appropriately."

"What's more, it will save a lot of money," he said.

The ruling raised concerns among California lawmakers and attorneys general from 18 other states who argued that a decision ordering the reduction of California's inmate population infringes on states' rights and could leave their prisons open to similar lawsuits.

It's "a historic attack on the constitutional rights of states and the liberty of all Californians," said former state Sen.

George Runner, who had intervened in the lawsuit on behalf of legislative Republicans. It will result in "flooding our neighborhoods with criminals."

The ruling gives California two weeks to submit a population reduction plan and two years to comply.

However, Justice Anthony Kennedy, a California native who wrote the majority opinion, said the state could ask a federal court for more time to reach the 110,000-inmate target, even as he chastised California for allowing unconstitutional conditions to persist for years.

Asia

Pakistani troops retake naval base from militants



Pakistani army commandos drive through the main gate of a naval aviation base following an attack by militants in Karachi, Pakistan, Monday, May 23, 2011.

KARACHI, Pakistan (AP)—Pakistani commandos recaptured a major naval base from Taliban attackers Monday after a bloody and humiliating 18-hour standoff that raised questions about militant infiltration in the security services and the safety of the volatile country's nuclear warheads.

The unusually brazen assault, which the Taliban said was to avenge the killing of Osama bin Laden, was a reminder that the Pakistanis are catching blame from both sides in the aftermath of the May 2 raid by U.S. commandos.

While Americans have accused elements in the Pakistani security services of having sheltered bin Laden in the military town of Abbottabad, the Taliban and al-Qaida fault the army for its level of cooperation with the Americans. It was the third purported revenge strike in Pakistan since bin Laden's death.

After initially estimating that 15 insurgents were involved in the attack that began late Sunday in the country's commercial capital, Karachi, officials said just six heavily armed, black-clad assailants penetrated into

the heart of the Naval Station Mehran after cutting through wire in a quiet section of its eastern perimeter.

The militants destroyed two U.S.-supplied surveillance aircraft and killed at least five navy officers, two paramilitary rangers and three firefighters. Six Americans and 11 Chinese aviation engineers escaped unharmed, authorities said.

Four attackers were killed—one apparently blew himself up—but two managed to escape, said Pakistan Navy chief Nauman Bashir.

After blowing up the aircraft, causing huge fires that lit up the night sky and sent black smoke above the city of 18 million people, the insurgents inside the base managed to evade death or capture into Monday by splitting up and firing on marines and commandos sent to catch them.

Toward early afternoon, the militants were holed up in an office building as navy helicopters flew over the base, and snipers were seen on a runway control tower. A final crack of automatic weapon fire rang out, and the navy soon declared victory.

"Thanks be to God, the base is cleared and the operation is over," said navy spokesman Irfan ul Haq.

Commandos leaving the complex flashed victory signs to reporters.

The base, the home of the Pakistan Navy's air arm, is part of the much larger Faisal air base, and is surrounded by residential and commercial areas. It is about six miles (10 kilometers) from the city's international airport.

Interior Minister Rehman

Malik said the attackers were aged between 20 and 25 and the plot was hatched in the Waziristan area close to Afghanistan, from where most of the attackers inside Pakistan—and many in Afghanistan—are believed to train and get shelter.

He showed a picture he took with his cell phone of a dead fighter lying bloodied on the grass. He said the attackers were dressed in black—presumably to avoid detection at night—and looked "like the Star Wars characters."

UN envoy: Myanmar does little to stop rights abuses

BANGKOK (AP)—The United Nations' human rights envoy to Myanmar said the country's nascent civilian government has done little to address widespread abuses, including forced labor and extrajudicial killings, since replacing the ruling junta in March.

Elections last year for a new parliament and the installation of civilian leaders were hailed by Myanmar's military leaders as the final steps on as their "roadmap to democracy." But U.N. envoy Tomas Ojea Quintana told reporters Monday in Bangkok that "democracy requires much more."

Myanmar's government is currently refusing to allow Quintana to visit the Southeast Asian nation. The envoy spoke after a weeklong trip to Thailand to talk with refugees from Myanmar. Thailand is home to more than 100,000 people who have fled the neighboring country.

Quintana said violence continues along Myanmar's eastern border region, and ethnic minority groups there are victims of "land confiscation, forced labor, internal displacement, extrajudicial killings and sexual violence."

These abuses "are widespread, they continue today, and they remain essentially unaddressed by the authorities," Quintana said.

In Myanmar's eastern Kayah state, for example, both men and women have fled out of fear of being conscripted into the military, he said. There is such a deficit of schools

there that some parents send their children to refugee camps in Thailand for basic education, he added.

Ethnic groups living in the eastern and northern border areas have sought more autonomy since Myanmar's independence in 1948, and the government maintains uneasy cease-fires with most armed groups in those regions but faces low-level rebellions by others. Human rights organizations have long accused the military of forcing civilians into forced labor, particularly as porters.

The military has ruled Myanmar with an iron hand since 1962, and the nominally civilian government is dominated by former leaders in the repressive regime. Critics say the election last year was a sham to perpetuate the junta's power and the new government is a charade.

Last week, Washington's deputy assistant secretary of state for East Asian and Pacific Affairs, Joseph Yun, also expressed concern about the new government's human rights policies.

The Myanmar Times, meanwhile, quoted Foreign Minister Wunna Maung Lwin as urging Yun to refer to the country as Myanmar rather than Burma.

The former junta changed the country's name from Burma to Myanmar in 1989, but many regime opponents and pro-democracy leader Aung San Suu Kyi still call the country by its former name.

Afghan intel agency: Taliban chief has disappeared

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP)—The Afghan intelligence agency said Monday that the reclusive leader of the Taliban has disappeared from a suspected hideout in Pakistan and has been out of contact with his commanders for days—adding further questions about Mullah Mohammad Omar after a media report said he was killed.

The Taliban denied the claim on the Afghan news channel Tolo that Omar was shot dead while being moved inside Pakistan with the help of a former Pakistani intelligence official. The Taliban spokesman countered that Omar was alive and was somewhere inside Afghanistan.

The conflicting reports, how-

ever, underscore the complicated disputes and suspicions between Afghanistan and Pakistan as the U.S. intensifies pressure on both sides: urging Afghan forces to step up efforts against militants and pushing Pakistani authorities to help unravel the networks that aided Osama bin Laden.

Pakistan's foreign minister, meanwhile, was in Kabul for talks with Afghan President Hamid Karzai, who has been increasingly outspoken in the need for Pakistan to take a stronger role in the fight against militant groups.

There also has been much speculation that the U.S. might ramp up efforts to kill or capture the Taliban leader after

the raid that killed Osama bin Laden on May 2. U.S. President Barack Obama has said he would order another covert military raid if it was necessary to stop terrorist attacks.

Afghan officials claim Omar has been sheltered in Quetta or Karachi, major cities in southeast and southern Pakistan. Pakistan says it has no credible evidence Omar is in the country.

The spokesman for the Afghan National Directorate for Security, or NDS, said Omar and some Taliban commanders had not been spotted since late last week while moving from Quetta to North Waziristan—a tribal area in Pakistan that is used as a staging ground for at-

tacks on U.S. and NATO troops in Afghanistan.

The spokesman, Latifullah Mashal, suggested that "maybe an incident has happened along the way," but emphasized that officials had no further information about the fate of the Taliban leader.

"We can confirm he's been disappeared from his hideout," Mashal told reporters in Kabul.

Mashal made the statement after the Tolo report, which cited an anonymous Afghan intelligence official as saying Omar had been shot dead in Pakistan en route to North Waziristan with the help of Gen. Hamid Gul, the former chief of Pakistani intelligence.

ASIAN BRIEFS

Body of Japanese climber brought down from Everest

KATMANDU, Nepal (AP)—The body of a Japanese climber who died while climbing Mount Everest has arrived in the Nepalese capital. Takashi Ozaki died on May 12 just several hundred feet (meters) from

the summit. He most likely died from altitude sickness, a common cause of death at altitudes where oxygen levels are low and weather conditions extreme. Pasang, a rescuer, said the 59-year-old's body was carried down from the point where he died to a camp at 21,325 feet (6,500 meters) and then hooked

to a helicopter. It arrived Monday at a Katmandu hospital, where family and friends have waited for days.

Bhutan's monarch set to marry later this year

GAUHATI, India (AP)—Their thunder may have been stolen by Prince William and Kate Mid-

dleton, but the monarch of the Himalayan kingdom of Bhutan and his sweetheart plan to marry this year. Jigme Khesar Namgyal Wangchuck, Bhutan's 31-year-old Oxford-educated king, will wed a 20-year-old commoner. The would-be queen of the nation of 700,000 people is Jetsun Pema, a student at London's Re-

gent College.

Muslim rebels help free Filipino hostage

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—Philippine authorities are commending Muslim rebels for helping secure the freedom of a grocery shop owner who was kidnapped by gunmen. Mili-

tary spokesman Col. Prudencio Asto says troops retrieved the victim Tuesday after she was abandoned by her captors who brought her to a territory controlled by the largest Muslim rebel group, the Moro Islamic Liberation Front. Asto says the perpetrators are members of a kidnapping gang.

World

NATO airstrikes hit Tripoli, heaviest bombing yet

TRIPOLI, Libya (AP)—NATO warplanes bombarded targets in Tripoli with more than 20 airstrikes early Tuesday, striking around Moammar Gadhafi's residential compound in what appeared to be the heaviest night of bombing of the Libyan capital since the Western alliance launched its air campaign against his forces.

The rapid string of strikes, all within less than half an hour, set off thunderous booms that rattled windows and sent heavy plumes of smoke over the city, including from an area close to Gadhafi's sprawling Bab al-Aziziya compound.

Government spokesman Moussa Ibrahim said at least three people were killed and dozens wounded in NATO strikes that targeted what he described as buildings used by volunteer units of the Libyan army.

NATO said in a statement that a number of the strikes hit a vehicle storage facility adjacent to Bab al-Aziziya that has been used in supplying regime forces "conducting attacks on civilians." It was not immediately clear if the facility was the only target hit in the barrage. Bab al-Aziziya, which includes a number of military facilities, has been pounded repeatedly by NATO strikes.

As jets whooshed low over the city during the night, anti-aircraft fire crackled in response. People could be heard screaming and shouting outside a hotel where journalists are staying.



A plastic skeleton and used ammunition is seen in a checkpoint as rebel fighters drive towards the front line with Moammar Gadhafi forces, 25 km west from Misrata, Libya, Monday, May 23, 2011.

Pro-Gadhafi loyalists beeped their car horns and fired guns, shouting their support for the Libyan leader.

Observers described the bombing as the heaviest attack on the Libyan capital since NATO began its air campaign on March 19 after the passage of a U.N. Security Council resolution to protect civilians after Gadhafi responded to the

public uprising against his rule by unleashing his military and his militias.

NATO has been escalating and widening the scope of its strikes over the past weeks, hiking the pressure on Gadhafi, while the alliance's members have built closer ties with the rebel movement that has control of the eastern half of Libya. On Monday, the

highest-ranking U.S. diplomat in the Middle East, Jeffrey Feltman, was in the de facto rebel capital of Benghazi in a show of support.

Despite NATO bombing runs, the rebels have not been able to break Gadhafi's grip on the west of the country, including the capital Tripoli.

In a significant new deployment

of firepower, France and Britain are bringing attack helicopters to use in the strikes in Libya as soon as possible, French Defense Minister Gerard Longuet said Monday.

The use of attack helicopters would appear to mark a new strategy for NATO, which has relied on strikes by fighter planes and seen that result in a stalemate on the ground as Gadhafi forces adapted, often turning to urban fighting to make such strikes more difficult.

Nimble, low-flying helicopters have much more leeway to pick targets with precision than high-flying jets. But they also are much more vulnerable to ground fire. The alliance has had no military deaths since it first started enforcing a no-fly zone on March 31.

Longuet said the helicopters would be used to target military equipment such as Libyan tanker and ammunition trucks in crowded urban areas while causing fewer civilian casualties. Longuet said France would essentially use Gazelle helicopters, which have been around for some 40 years, but can also use the Tigre, a modern helicopter gunship.

The U.S. State Department statement said the visit by Feltman, Assistant Secretary of State for Near Eastern Affairs, was "another signal of the U.S.'s support" for the rebels' National Transitional Council, which it called "a legitimate and credible interlocutor for the Libyan people."

Netanyahu: Israel cannot return to 1967 borders

WASHINGTON (AP)—Israel's prime minister promised to present his vision for an Israeli-Palestinian peace in a speech before U.S. lawmakers on Tuesday, but vowed his country would not return to mid-1967 borders that he termed "indefensible."

Benjamin Netanyahu made this pledge in an address Monday to thousands of pro-Israel American Jews and U.S. lawmakers. His speech drew roaring cheers and standing ovations, a sign of the powerful backing he enjoys in the U.S. as the White House pressures him to do more to renew stalled Mideast peacemaking.

The warm reception Netanyahu enjoyed at the gala dinner of the American Israel Public Affairs Committee contrasted sharply with the contentious quality of some of his recent exchanges with President Barack Obama precisely over border issues.

His planned address on Tuesday to a joint meeting of Congress, where Israel enjoys strong bipartisan backing, could similarly remind Obama, ahead of his re-election bid, of the political



price he might pay if he tries to push Netanyahu too hard.

In that speech, Netanyahu said, he

will "outline a vision for a secure Israeli-Palestinian peace."

But in language that suggested he was not going to take a conciliatory pose, he promised to "speak the unvarnished truth."

"This conflict has raged for 100 years because the Palestinians refuse to end it. They refuse to accept a Jewish state."

A peace agreement, he said, must assure Israel's security: "Israel cannot return to the indefensible 1967 borders," he declared, rekindling the dispute with Obama in a possible effort to placate territorial hardliners in his government.

Borders became an issue last week when Obama, in a major Mideast policy speech, took the position that any negotiations on final borders of the Jewish and Palestinian states must be based on the boundaries Israel held in 1967 before capturing east Jerusalem, the West Bank and the Gaza Strip—lands the Palestinians claim for their hoped-for state.

In direct statements and through

aides, Netanyahu suggested Obama did not understand Israel's security needs or the realities of the conflict-riven Mideast.

Obama said clearly in his policy speech and in his own address before AIPAC on Sunday that the territorial markers could be adjusted through mutually agreed land swaps—a principle accepted by the Palestinians that would allow Israel to retain major settlement blocs and help assure its security.

But Netanyahu has repeatedly sidelined this part of the Obama message.

In a sign of the sympathy Netanyahu can hope to enjoy in Congress, Obama's own political ally, Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid, challenged Obama on the border issue at the AIPAC dinner.

"No one should set premature parameters about borders, about building or about anything else," Reid, D-Nev., said.

The reference to building alluded to earlier U.S. demands that Israel renew an expired moratorium on settlement construction.

Obama in jubilant Ireland: 'I've come home'

DUBLIN (AP)—He downed a pint of Guinness with a distant cousin and checked out centuries-old parish records tracing his family to Ireland. From the tiny village of Moneygall to a huge, cheering crowd in Dublin, President Barack Obama opened his four-nation trip through Europe on Monday with an unlikely homecoming far removed from the grinding politics

of Washington and the world.

"My name is Barack Obama, of the Moneygall Obamas, and I've come home to find the apostrophe we lost somewhere along the way," a clearly tickled Obama—make that O'Bama—told the overflow throng at Dublin's College Green with his wife, Michelle, right by him. "We feel very much at home."

Obama's feel-good indulgence in Ireland came at the start of a four-country, six-day trip that is bound to get into stickier matters as he goes. The only hitch on day one was the threat of a volcanic ash cloud from Iceland that led the president to leave Ireland without even a night's stay and land in England on Monday night.

His high point in Ireland was a helicopter jaunt to Moneygall, population 350 give or take it, where the president's great-great-great grandfather,

Falmouth Kearney, was born and where thousands congregated to welcome the United States' first black president home. Obama met there with his nearest Irish relative, 26-year-old accountant Henry Healy, and they stopped in at Ollie's Bar for a Guinness.

It was a moment and a pint to savor. To the approval of the pub crowd and people all across Ireland watching on television, Obama downed the full pint in four slurps and came away with a foam mustache.

WORLD BRIEFS

Yemen gunbattles erupt after Saleh refuses exit

SANAA, Yemen (AP)—Security forces and opposition tribal fighters battled with automatic weapons, mortars and tanks in the Yemeni capital on Monday, blasting buildings and setting government offices on fire in violence that hiked fears of an armed confrontation after the collapse of efforts to negotiate a peaceful exit for President Ali Abdullah Saleh. The street fighting, in which six people were killed and nearly 40 wounded, was the heaviest clash between the pro—and anti-Saleh camps since hundreds of thousands of Yemenis began taking to the streets three months ago in protests demanding the ouster of the president after 32 years in power.

Volcanic cloud heads to Scotland, flights canceled

LONDON (AP)—A dense ash cloud from an Icelandic volcano blew toward Scotland on Monday, causing airlines to cancel flights, forcing President Barack Obama to shorten a visit to Ireland, and raising fears of a repeat of last year's huge travel disruptions in Europe that stranded millions of passengers. Britain's Civil Aviation Authority said it appears that ash from the Grimsvotn (GREEMSH-votn) volcano could reach Scottish airspace as early as Tuesday and affect other parts of the U.K. and Ireland later in the week. British Airways suspended all its flights for Tuesday morning between London and Scotland, while Dutch carrier KLM and Easyjet canceled flights to and from Scotland and northern England at the same time. Two domestic airlines also announced flight disruptions.

Focus

Japan's renegade hero gives Saipan new hope

By ROB GILHOOLY
SPECIAL TO THE JAPAN TIMES

SAIPAN, Northern Mariana Islands—Graciano Lisua doesn't look like someone who would get too worked up about ghosts. Yet superstition, says the broad-shouldered, barrel-chested Chomorrón as he leans on his machete, is of great import for the inhabitants of the Mariana Islands.

Traditionally, it seems, the aboriginal Chomorro people believe in *taotaomona*—spirits of the dead that are said to occupy, and even haunt, the mountains and jungles.

"Offend them and you'll be cursed with ill fortune," he warns.

Lisua's timing is impeccable. Before us is a dense tract of mountainous jungle where, 67 years ago, thousands of Japanese soldiers and civilians lost their lives during the Battle of Saipan that raged on the island from June 15 to July 9, 1944.

What's more, it's said to be a popular hangout with *taotaomona*—and we're about to trek into it.

"Some people say they still see the spirit of a Japanese soldier who carried on living in this jungle for three or four years after the war ended," Lisua says as he and Thom Chipwelong, another machete-wielding islander, slash a way through twisting branches and wiry ivy that has an uncanny penchant for human ankles.

"That's even longer than the Fox."

While the first man he refers to is quite likely mythical, the so-called Fox was very real. It was, in fact, the name given to Sakae Oba, a captain in the 18th Infantry Regiment of the Imperial Japanese Army, who gathered together and led 46 soldiers in this wilderness for some 16 months after U.S. forces officially declared Saipan secured from the enemy.

During that time, Oba and his men also watched over an additional 160 Japanese civilians who had retreated into the jungle, teaching them survival skills and preventing their capture—while also conducting guerrilla-type attacks and confounding the 45,000-strong U.S. force still stationed on Saipan after hostilities were declared over.

Until February this year, few knew about the exploits of the former school teacher from Aichi Prefecture who, after repatriation to Japan, went on to serve somewhat less hazardous causes on the executive board of the Maruei Department Store and, later, on the local council of his hometown, Gamagori.

That all changed with the release then of the film "Taiheiyō no Kiseki—Fokkusu to Yobareta Otoko" ("Miracle of the Pacific—the Man they called

»'Last samurai' who fought on after war's end may be tourism savior



Capt. Sakae Oba surrenders his sword to Col. Howard Kurgis on Dec. 1, 1945, on the Pacific island of Saipan.

TIME MAGAZINE

Fox"), whose slightly more dramatic official English title of "Oba: The Last Samurai" follows that of a 1986 book by U.S. war veteran Don Jones, on which the film is based.

Jones was among the U.S. Marines on the receiving end of Oba and his squad's nighttime forays, and his curiosity about how the Japanese junior officer had eluded U.S. attempts to flush him out of Saipan's jungles led him to track down his former foe some 35 years after he had finally surrendered. In the process, Jones returned Oba's sword.

The film attracted 332,000 people over its opening weekend, earning ¥390 million in box-office revenues and a No. 1 spot in Japan's movie rankings.

Filmed by two different directors and casts—one side Japanese, the other American—the film has already landed distribution deals in several European countries, including Britain and Germany.

On Saipan, a special viewing of the film in late January played to a sell-out audience, garnering enthusiastic reviews and an announcement by the Mariana Tourism Authority that it alone would generate \$22 million in publicity.

This is welcome news for Saipan, which has been starved of publicity since the Asian economic crisis in 1997. Tour operators there reminisce about the pre-crisis "golden era," when 12 flights per day would arrive from Japan alone. Today, there is just one daily flight from Tokyo's Narita airport, with others from Osaka and Nagoya only operating during peak holiday seasons.

The outcome is plain to see, with countless shops and other buildings on the island deserted. The once glitzy shopping and entertainment district of Garapan now also looks a bit neglected,

and vandalism and theft have become social concerns.

"The pace of life here has always been slow, but nowadays it sometimes feels to be slowing down even more," says Hitoshi Yamaguchi, president of local dive-operator Mariana Sports Club Inc., which started its operations 38 years ago.

"In Japan now, tour operators say the irregularity of flights means they can't produce brochures for Saipan, so that's not helping to keep us on the radar of potential tourists," he says.

However, tourism officials on the island refuse to be pessimistic.

Aside from a \$6.2 million Japan Air Stabilization Program targeting year-round flights from Osaka and Nagoya that was signed into law last month, the Japan connection goes much deeper than the bubble years of the 1980s.

Japan's association with Saipan dates back almost a century, when it took over the island's administration from Germany under a League of Nations mandate at the beginning of World War I and created thriving fishing and sugarcane industries.

"Around 25,000 Japanese civilians settled here before the Pacific War (in 1941), and they worked and lived side by side with the local people," says Saipan historian and tour guide Gordon Marciano. "The arrival of the military changed all that, but the cultural impact remains."

Apart from two distinctly Japanese-style wooden houses, which Marciano says are threatened with demolition, and the rusting steam locomotive used in the 1920s by Haruji "Sugar King" Matsue's South Seas Development Co., little physical evidence of that early impact remains.

So it is to the remnants of war and the tale of Capt. Oba that attentions have turned in hopes of

producing the visitor fillip Saipan urgently needs.

And indeed, a company Marciano has started, named Pacific Development Inc., offers tours of the island that take in renowned World War II sites, such as the infamous Suicide Cliffs where thousands of Japanese civilians leapt to their deaths in 1944 following an imperial edict promising them a privileged place in the afterlife.

Additionally, a new tour Marciano has created that takes in yet more key sites from the Battle of Saipan—including the so-called Harakiri Gulch, where 60 Japanese soldiers blew themselves up in a cave to avoid capture—will, he hopes, attract growing numbers of Oba buffs from Japan and, should the film succeed elsewhere, from further afield.

Eager to experience the first of Marciano's "Oba tours," I sign up there and then as the only one in my "group." Consistent with the chronology of the film, we start in the Matanza district, site of the Battle of Saipan's infamous June 7, 1944, Banzai Charge—or *gyokusai* (honorable suicide) as Japan's wartime Cabinet Information Bureau called it.

Oba took part in that suicidal attack by some 3,000 remaining combatants, but survived along with 47 other soldiers who he led into the jungles having convinced them that relief was on its way.

"Oba insisted that continuing to fight for their country was more honorable than so-called honorable suicide," Marciano explains. But because of Oba's decision to fight on, Marciano says, "Many labeled him a coward after the war."

In fact, upon his return to Japan, he adds, Oba was ceremonially stripped of his "posthumous" promotion to major—which had been awarded in the belief he had died during the charge.

Though Oba didn't know at the time he decided to carry on fighting, the relief that he'd promised his men was on its way would never arrive. Instead, Japanese cargo ships dispatched with a fleet of warships from the Philippines were intercepted by the U.S. 3rd and 7th fleets off the Philippines, resulting in their decimation in October 1944 in the Battle of Leyte Gulf—considered to be the greatest sea battle of World War II.

Oba, however, refused to believe reports of that maritime defeat—or later, even of Japan's surrender in August 1945. And he dismissed photographs dropped by U.S. aircraft of devastated Hiroshima after it was atom-bombed on Aug. 6, 1945, simply as doctored fakes. The war, he believed, was still there to be won.

When medical and other supplies ran out, he would undertake night raids on U.S. camps, at the same time smuggling out POWs to elicit information and cleverly replacing them with the same number of his own men.

"That's what earned him his nickname, 'Fox,'" says Marciano. "He was so canny that even when the American soldiers set up an outside cinema in a field near the camp, they never knew that, among the trees behind them, Oba was taking a seat in the back row."

One local Saipan resident who actually met Oba, when the former Imperial Army captain revisited Saipan in the mid-1980s, was former U.S. Peace Corps volunteer Scott Russell. "He came across as a quiet, dignified man," he says. "One clear memory I have is of a drinking session, where the congenial atmosphere made it difficult for me to imagine that middle-aged man being the lethal killer he once was."

Russell also recalls attending a

ceremony on the spot where, on Dec. 1, 1945, Oba surrendered to the U.S. forces—a after keeping up his resistance with his men for 512 days.

Later on my tour, Marciano takes me to just that historic spot as well. Today, a narrow, dusty road runs through the site, which is located just below the stretch of forest that we later trek. At about the point where Oba handed over his sword, there now stands the home of Jose Munro, whose father Tobias once helped hundreds of Japanese to recover the bones of soldiers and civilians who lost their lives in the jungles of Saipan.

"Those trees up there, the resting places of so many young people, have long had a slightly sad feel," said Munro, who was born on the day after Oba's surrender. "Yet the story of Oba gives them life. It might sound strange, but somehow it makes me feel proud to live here."

Munro brings out some Japanese soldiers' artifacts he found on excursions into those trees with his father and Japanese relatives of the dead during the 1960s. He hands me a dented water bottle bearing kanji written in red ink that's now illegible beneath rust and moss. Swords, letters and even live ordnance have also been found up there, he said. "I sometimes wonder if any of this stuff might have belonged to Oba."

On the trek through the jungle with my machete-wielding guides, we find no such traces of this resourceful man's stubborn resistance. Many belongings, Lisua says, were probably buried or dumped in caves that were then demolished with explosives.

We scramble to the top of a rocky outcrop and take in the view of the bay far below, the very same point where the 2nd and 4th divisions of the U.S. Marines landed at the start of the Battle of Saipan. Submerged out at sea, the tops of five Sherman tanks can just be made out in the glow of the late afternoon sun where once their transport vessel was sunk.

It is enthralling to think of the way Oba, at age 32, ended his resistance—not in any cunning, foxlike way—but with his head held high, his 46 troops marching behind, and them all singing in unison a song commemorating their fallen comrades.

"Oba fought on his own terms, and surrendered on his own terms," says Marciano, referring to Oba's refusal to hand his sword over to the officiating Marine Corps officer, Lt. Col. Howard G. Kurgis, until ordered to do so by a senior Japanese officer the U.S. side had brought over especially from the mainland.

"That's the kind of spirit we like to believe in."

Campus Life

27 Golden Harvest students advance to next level



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Twenty-seven students of the Golden Harvest International School are promoted to the next level during the school's 12th Commencement Exercises and Recognition Day on Saturday, May 21, 2011, at the Multi-Purpose Center.

The Golden Harvest International School held its 12th Commencement Exercises and Recognition Day on Saturday, May 21, 2011, at the Multi-Purpose Center.

Academic achievement recognitions were handed out to both graduating and non-graduating students.

A total of 27 graduates comprised the Class of 2011. This year's valedictorian is Alliah Raine Pillarina for Advance Kinder 5 and Kaithlyn Chavez for K3.

This year's guest speaker, Tina Sablan, imparted an inspi-

ration message, giving emphasis on kindergarten education as an important foundation that will last a lifetime.

Parents, relatives, and friends witnessed this memorable event and celebrated the academic achievements of the students.

School president Susan Deblouis recognized the team effort of the teachers and staff for a successful year as well as the tremendous support of the parents. Enrollment for 2011 summer classes on academic, music and dance workshop is now ongoing. (PR)

CAMPUS BULLETIN

UOG lecture series features US Virgin Islands governor

U.S. Virgin Islands Gov. John P. de Jongh will present "Guam, the U.S. Virgin Islands and America's Territories - Unique Challenges, Shared Successes" during Robert A. Underwood's 11th Presidential Lecture Series on May 26 at 5:30pm in the CLASS Lecture Hall, University of Guam campus. The Presidential Lecture Series is free and open to the public. (PR)

Kagman High School calendar

Parents, guardians, and seniors at Kagman High School will have a mandatory graduation meeting tomorrow, May 26, 2011, at 5pm at the school's cafeteria.

The agenda will include:

- Graduation requirements: Evaluations/28 Credit Policy
- Graduation Mass: June 9, 6pm at the Kristo Rai Church
- Award ceremony: June 15, 8:30am at the KHS stage
- Graduation ceremony: June 16 at 3:30pm at the Kagman High School Grounds
- Survey: Senior Exit, Accreditation, ESLR's
- Portfolios due on June 2 by 4pm



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

CONSISTENT PRINCIPAL'S LIST AWARDEES

Grace Christian Academy 3rd grade students under Mr. Josh Zwicker pose after receiving their Consistent Principal's List Award during yesterday's Awards Day ceremony held at the school's auditorium. From left to right, Matt Jason Moran, Tae Yong Kim, Jim Michael Ham, Arvin Dayao, and Robert Schorr. The Consistent Principal's List is awarded to students with no grades below 96 percent in the entire school year.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

STAR STUDENT

Congratulations Mark Daniel Versoza for a job well done! Mark is a 7th grade student at Grace Christian Academy. Among of the awards he received were Consistent Honor Roll, Citizenship, and Perfect Attendance. The annual Awards Day was held yesterday at the GCA auditorium.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

CLASS OF 2011

Congratulations to Bianca Hope Manglona Mendiola, who will graduate from the University of Guam on Sunday, May 29, with a bachelor's degree in English (Literature)! Wherever you go, no matter what the weather, always bring your sunshine! Greetings come from Alvin Jr/ Sinahi Isu King and your Rota/Guam/Saipan families.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

MATH COURT WINNERS

Frederic Dean Michael Manicdao Guintu, third from left, wins the gold medal in the 2011 NMI Math Court Regional Finals Kinder-2nd Grade Division held on May 21, 2011, at Dandan Elementary School, Saipan. He is shown here with, from left, teacher Mrs. Norman, father Dick Guintu, mother Maricar Guintu, and the rest of the top 5 winners in K-2 Division with their parents.



CONGRATULATIONS!

Congratulations to Victoria Nicole M. Santos for winning the silver medal in the 2011 CNMI Regional Math Court Competition, K-2 Division held at Dandan Elementary School on Saturday, May 21, 2011. Daddy Ferdie and Mommy Mhel are so proud of you.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



Congratulations to Jian Carlo "Yoyi" Sales, who graduated from Green Meadow School on Sunday with a B Honor medal. Greetings come from your Ninong Soc, Ninong Jayvee, Kyna, Nanay and Tatay.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



Congratulations to Jaiden Sabugo for receiving the Consistent Honor Roll award in her second grade class at Grace Christian Academy for school year 2010 - 2011. Greetings come from Geneva, Emman, and her friends and family.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Life & Style

Jack Black is animated about 'Kung Fu Panda 2'

By FRANK LOVECE
Newsday

NEW YORK—The hero of the animated "Kung Fu Panda 2," opening Thursday, is a panda named Po—but he may as well be called "Jack Black and White" since there is no mistaking the distinctive sensibility of the comic actor whose rapid-fire yet casually offhand riffs have added hey-dude humor to such films as "High Fidelity" and "Tropic Thunder," and carried such starring vehicles as "Shallow Hal" and "The School of Rock."

Black, 41, born in Santa Monica, Calif., and raised in Hermosa Beach, began his career at 13, in TV commercials for such products as the Atari video game Pitfall. Roles in the TV-movie "Our Shining Moment" (1991) and Tim Robbins' political satire "Bob Roberts" (1992) led to steady bit-part and character work until his breakthrough as John Cusack's wild record-store employee in "High Fidelity" (2000). He's also found success with his and Kyle Glass' rock duo Tenacious D.

Black spoke with *Newsday* by phone from the Cannes Film Festival.

Q. Animation directors do recording sessions in different ways. Usually actors all record separately, but not always. How did it work for you here?

A. The only thing I did with another actor was the scene when I first meet (the antagonist) Shen, the albino peacock. Me and Gary Oldman did bust that out together because they were unable to get the magic with us separately.

Q. Why, do you think?

A. I don't know. There was just something about the intensity of the scene where we meet and we're kind of laughing at each other and slowly ramping it up. It needed to happen live.

Q. Did the director, Jennifer Yuh Nelson, ever say, as they sometimes do with animation, "OK, we got the script version, you want to improv anything?"

A. No, she never gave me the go-ahead like that, but sometimes I would just take it. Sometimes I would just say, "Hey, wait, let me do one more," and then I would surprise them with a riff.

Q. Any particular one you'd like to share?

A. I can't remember off the top of my head, and I'm not even sure if they used them. All I know is that I always throw in my own take on certain scenes.

Q. In the first "Kung Fu Panda," Po dreams of joining the movie's team of heroes. Now, here, he's a member, he can hold his own, but he's also the one who clowns around and

makes the others laugh. Anything you can personally relate to there?

A. All through my 20s I was very much like Po, just sort of struggling to get by and not really being one of the comedic actors who were established. I didn't really have a consistent moneymaking career, like I can get my own apartment, until I was, like, 30 years old. Before that I would get parts here and there and I would go get an apartment and live there for a while, and then I would run out of money and go back and live with my mom. So, yeah, when I'm trying to get in the Po mode, I think back on those times, to my humble days when I was in awe of the comedy gods.

Q. And those would be ...?

A. Obviously John Belushi, he was a big influence on me, but also later on, Chris Farley. Those are obvious ones, just because we portly comedians got to stick together. But I'm also a huge fan of Jim Carrey and his style. It's not really about the subtlety so much as it is about going to the absolute limit.

Q. "Tropic Thunder"—is the sequel going to happen?

A. Don't think so. I have not heard anything about (the pro-

posed) "Arctic Lightning."

Q. Your hard-core fans are clamoring to see your and Owen Wilson's 1999 sci-fi/comedy TV pilot, "Heat Vision and Jack," released legitimately, instead of just being on bootleg video and unauthorized websites. Ever going to happen?

A. I don't think so. That's a YouTube. That's the way it has to be, unfortunately.

Q. What are you doing next?

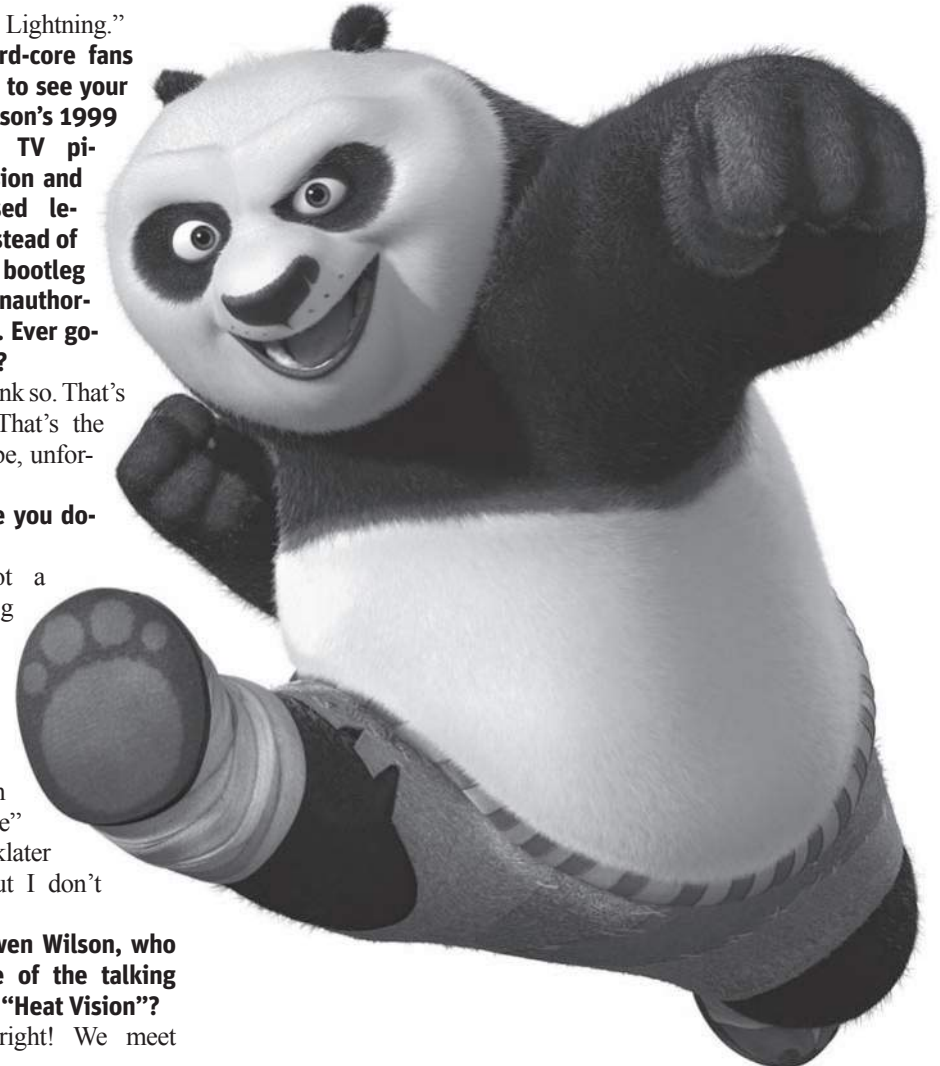
A. I've got a bird-watching movie coming out with Steve Martin and Owen Wilson in October, and then I did "Bernie" with Rick Linklater that comes out I don't know when.

Q. Wait, Owen Wilson, who did the voice of the talking motorcycle in "Heat Vision"?

A. That's right! We meet again.

Q. "Heat Vision and Birds."

A. That's right!



DREAMWORKS ANIMATION/MCT

Jack Black's character Po is seen in the DreamWorks Animation movie, "Kung Fu Panda 2".

'Book of Mormon' wins big at Drama Desk Awards

NEW YORK (AP)—The profane show "The Book of Mormon" snagged five Drama Desk Awards on Monday night, adding to its pre-Tony Award critical haul and making it the musical to beat when the biggest prizes in theater are handed out next month.

The Drama Desk, an organization of theater journalists and critics, called "The Book of Mormon" the season's best musical and gave it awards for best lyrics, music, director and orchestrations.

The show, by the creators of "South Park" and "Avenue Q," has already been declared the best musical by the Outer Critics Circle and the New York Drama Critics' Circle. It has nabbed a leading 14 Tony Award nominations.

The musical, by Trey Parker, Robert Lopez and Matt Stone, follows the travails of two Mormon missionaries sent to Uganda to try to convert locals. Casey Nicholaw and Parker directed.

The Drama Desk also honored the Cole Porter romp "Anything Goes" with five awards, including best musical revival, set design, sound design and Sutton Foster as outstanding actress.

The awards for outstanding acting in a play went to Bobby Cannavale in "The Motherf--- With the Hat" and Frances McDormand for "Good People." In the musical category, the lead male acting award went to Norbert Leo Butz from "Catch Me If You Can."

In the featured acting play categories, Brian Bedford in "The Importance of Being Earnest" and Edie Falco of "The House of Blue Leaves" won, while John Larroquette in "How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying" and Laura Benanti from "Women on the Verge of a Nervous Breakdown" won in the musical categories.

The best revival of a play award went to Larry Kramer's "The Normal Heart," which also won outstanding director honors for Joel Grey and George C. Wolfe. John Leguizamo's fifth one-man show "Ghetto Klown" was awarded outstanding solo performance.


The awards, which honor both Broadway and off-Broadway productions, were presented during a ceremony hosted by Harvey Fierstein at the Hammerstein Ballroom. The ceremony will be aired in June on the cable channel Ovation.

In Celebration of her New Life

† Aurea Arriola Borja

Lovingly known as "Nan Aring"

was born on July 19, 1926 and called to eternal life on May 20, 2011 at the age of 84




In her new life, she now joins her:

PARENTS: †Ignacio Diaz & †Ana Cabrera Arriola Borja

SISTER: †Magdalena Borja Palacios

BROTHERS/SISTERS IN-LAW:

†Antonio Santos Palacios, †Jose Concepcion Muna, †Gregorio Muna Quitugua & †Calistro Castro Ada, †Olympia Selepeo Borja, †Rosa Camacho Borja.



She will also be missed by her numerous Cousins, Nieces, Nephews, Godchildren & Friends.

Daily Mass of Intention is being celebrated at the Santa Soledad Church in Kagman at 6:00pm immediately followed by the Holy Rosary. Viewing and last respects will be at the Borja's Funeral Home in San Jose/Oleai on Friday, May 27, 2011 from 6:30am and the Holy Rosary will begin at 7:00am. Her remains will then be escorted from the Borja's Funeral Home to Mount Carmel Cathedral at 8:30am. Responso and Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 10:00am. Internment service will follow immediately at the Mount Carmel Cemetery in Chalan Kanoa.

Your thoughts and prayers is greatly appreciated.

Please join us in prayers

Thank you, Si Yu'us Ma'ase, Ghilissow & Salamat Po

Ginen Todo I Mañelu yan I Familia

All hail Oprah, the Queen of Daytime

By VERNE GAY
NEWSDAY

Well, that was quite a ride.

Twenty-five years ago, many expected "The Oprah Winfrey Show" would be big. No one anticipated Planet Oprah. Over a quarter century, "Oprah"—which airs its final episode Wednesday—and Oprah became worldwide phenomena that breached lives, cultures and—most unexpectedly—whole industries. But there have been other talk shows and other hosts. What made this one so outrageously different?

Where to begin? With Winfrey herself, of course. The show and Winfrey were one, as if a moving, talking image on someone's TV could somehow be turned into flesh and blood.

She was all there, right there, fully present on the screen every day for 25 years, and absolutely relentless in conveying the sheer force of her humanness: the appetites, fears, insecurities, joys and triumphs, often refracted even further through the battles with body weight or dress size. Her past became present, and a bandage ripped from a still-raw wound, with stories about childhood poverty and abuse, adolescent promiscuity and an unplanned pregnancy. Winfrey's life was her material, and the subject she knew best.

While she pored obsessively over this life, the lessons became apparent to fans who embraced them as well. The universe was not indifferent but had a plan for her, and for them. No one had ever heard Johnny Carson talk about the universe's plan. But Johnny was detached, cool and ironic. Oprah—and "Oprah"—were not.

As a blend of inspiration and aspiration, her show was something that had never been seen on daytime TV. Here was an African-American woman from the Jim Crow South who had been raised in poverty and became one of the world's wealthiest people. Winfrey's singular "aha" moment—repeated mantra-like through the years—was that life was about redemption, salvation and (most of all) personal fulfillment.

But if "Oprah" occasionally took on the aura of an old-time revival meeting, it also was yoked to a distinctly secular and even consumerist worldview. "Thin" was usually better than "fat." Fashion mattered, really mattered. And things, especially nice, expensive things, were good. "EVERYBODY GETS A CAR," she belted repeatedly over the hysterical din of an adoring studio audience in one of the most famous moments in TV history. In another time or place, she could have just as easily been saying, "Everybody gets to heaven," but in that wild, ecstatic, made-for-TV moment, a free new car seemed much better.

In fact, had Oprah Winfrey been just another Elmer Gantry in pumps, her show would have disappeared years ago. Other TV preachers had come and gone. She was not a preacher, but a BFF, who cared deeply—boy, did she care. No one on TV—maybe with the exception of Mr. Rogers—had ever seemed to care so much. When she cried hot tears, then looked deep into the camera, it was like she was looking right into viewers' souls.

Then Winfrey would invariably say something absolutely perfect to the moment, such as these Oprahisms from various shows: "If there is one message, it is that you are not alone. ... To be embraced, and feel part of other people's lives ... I don't know of another human being who has appreciated more than I have. ... I preach gratitude ... it changes the way you see the world ... the great lesson I have learned in all these years is that every person matters."

That's right. You matter. You, sitting there in the solitude of your living room trying to navigate life. You are hearing from your Best Friend Forever that y o u

matter. And you believed her. What's more, she truly seemed to believe what she was saying, too.

It was quite a performance over 25

one that changed millions of lives, altered the culture, made her a billionaire and even landed her a cable network cast in her own image.

Oprah moments we'll never forget

By FRANK LOVECE
NEWSDAY

Many Oprah moments got people talking. And a few got people, the press, the Internet and maybe even aliens monitoring our broadcasts talking. Here are five of Oprah Winfrey's most widely discussed moments.

■ Cruise couch-jumping

On the May 23, 2005, show, Tom Cruise couldn't seem to control his ardor for actress Katie Holmes, whose relationship with him had recently become public. Maniacally grinning, laughing, restless, he twice jumped up on the sofa, and into TV history.

■ Fat on a wagon

In Nov. 15, 1988's "Diet Dreams Do Come True"—the highest-rated episode to that time—a skinny Winfrey in size 10 jeans pulled behind her a wagon with 67 pounds of animal fat, representing her four-month weight loss from 212 to 145 on an all-liquid diet.

■ Car giveaway

For 276 audience members hand-picked because each needed a car, Winfrey gave each a GM-donated Pontiac G6 on the Sept. 13, 2004, season premiere. Her excited announcement, "You get a car! And you get a car!" became a catchphrase.

■ Oprah's half-sister

On Jan. 24, 2011, Winfrey revealed that unbeknown to her, she has a younger half-sister, Patricia, born while Winfrey was living with her father and unaware her mother was pregnant by another man. Patricia had discovered the relationship in 2007, and just before Thanksgiving 2010 finally reached out to Winfrey to tell her.

■ Australia-trip giveaway

On the Sept. 13, 2010, premiere of her 25th and final season, Winfrey told her delighted audience she was giving them a free, eight-day trip to Australia, where she was taping a series of shows. Their pilot? Well, John Travolta was supposed to fly one of the two Qantas 747s that arrived in Sydney on Dec. 7, but that didn't happen.

10 WAYS OPRAH CHANGED POP CULTURE

Books have been written about how Planet Oprah managed to do all of this. But we don't have time for a book, so here are 10 ways Oprah Winfrey changed American popular culture:

1. BIRTH OF THE TV CONFIDENTIAL:

Other broadcasters, from Jack Paar to Jack Benny, had, of course, deployed some aspect of their life story for their TV act, but no one had ever elevated it to the level that Winfrey did. This was almost like TV emerging from the confession booth, with Winfrey setting a new standard for intimacy (she out-"Donahue" Phil Donahue) on the tube. In

was a high-gloss distillate. There was the "O List" of all the stuff she loved (Fendi sunglasses); favorite recipes; interviews with extraordinary people and personal heroes (Nelson Mandela); and life strategies for success, health and happiness ("9 things weight loss winners know—and you don't").

5. OPRAH AND RACE: That Oprah's an African-American woman from Kosciusko, Miss., is the bedrock fact of her entire life, and a core part of her message. But she was, and is, also a so-called "crossover" personality who appealed to white viewers almost more than to black ones. There have been many theories about Oprah's impact on race relations, such as a 1989 essay by Barbara Grizzuti Harrison that even claimed that "in a racist society, the majority needs and seeks from time to time proof that they are loved by the minority" they've oppressed. Oprah, "a one-person demilitarized zone, has served that purpose."

6. OPRAH AS A SELLING MACHINE: Winfrey's ability to sell products was as great as her ability to sell ideas. Everything and anything mentioned on her show, from diet fads to soap, was sprinkled with marketing magic dust, while to be one of "Oprah's Favorite Things" was to be conferred a status that no amount of advertising or paid publicity could hope to replicate.

7. OPRAH AND THE TALK BOOM: "The Oprah Winfrey Show," later shortened to "Oprah," arrived in a crush of daytime talk; there were to be dozens of shows over the years jostling for attention, influence and fortune, and they are mostly all gone now—except for the ones she developed. She used her considerable influence and fortune to launch some of the most successful daytime talkers now on TV—"Dr. Phil," "Rachael Ray," "Nate Berkus" and "Dr. Oz."

8. OPRAH AND POLITICS: For the first 15 (or so) years of "Oprah," she kept the show a politics-free zone, on the assumption—certainly reasonable—that politics tended to be divisive, while she had carefully crafted a vision of unity and fulfillment of life goals. That would change because Oprah came to obvious realization that her show tapped into the national dialogue on any number of subjects. Oprah left her show for a brief period to help Barack Obama's candidacy, but some believed her sabbatical hurt the show as well by alienating Hillary Clinton or Republican supporters. Nevertheless, her role as a political power broker—when she chose to wield her power—was undeniable.

9. OPRAH AND HOLLYWOOD: Stars beat a path to "Oprah," believing that not only would an appearance sell tickets, but that the approval of the show's host could almost beatify a career. Dozens of stars appeared over the years, and the show became a Hollywood force unlike no other. "Celine Dion, Halle Berry and John Travolta really became friends of mine" through the interviews, she said. Tom Cruise would appear nine times. They became friends, too—couch-jumping and all.

10. OPRAH AND GIVING: Central to "Oprah" was charity, and its star gave. In 1997, she launched the Angel Network, saying she was inspired by the "little girl" who collected 400,000 pennies. The Angel Network collected millions of dollars in change that went to student scholarships over the years, and giving has likewise become a part of many other stars' personas.



Woman named in Schwarzenegger affair hires lawyer

LOS ANGELES (AP)—A woman identified by some media as the mother of former Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger's out-of-wedlock son has hired a Los Angeles law firm.

Lawyer Michael Saltz confirms that Mildred Patricia Baena of Bakersfield is being represented by the firm Jacobson, Russell, Saltz & Fingerman.

The website Radar Online first reported the hire, saying it received a letter from the firm challenging "unflattering re-

ports" about the housekeeper.

Saltz told The Associated Press there is no plan to file litigation at this time. He declined further comment.

Schwarzenegger acknowledged fathering a child with a former household employee.

The woman has been identified as Baena by The New York Times and other media. The Associated Press has not independently verified that she is the mother of Schwarzenegger's child.

2 contestants tied in race for 'Dancing' crown

LOS ANGELES (AP)—With one dance remaining, two "Dancing With the Stars" finalists are tied for the judges' top spot.

Chelsea Kane and Hines Ward each scored 59 points out of 60 for their two dances on Monday's episode. Fellow finalist Kirstie Alley finished with 54 points.

Each will perform one final dance on Tuesday, when a new "Dancing" champ will be crowned.

Judges' scores are combined with viewer votes to determine where the celebrity danc-

ers rank. Viewers can cast five votes each.

Kane, a Disney Channel star, and Ward, who was named most valuable player at the Super Bowl in 2006, each earned a perfect score of 30 for their freestyle dances. They each collected 29 points for their judges' choice dances: Samba for her and quickstep for him.

Alley earned 27 points for each of her routines: A samba and a freestyle that she performed in a black bodysuit that revealed her leaner figure.



In this publicity image released by ABC, Hines Ward, right, and his partner Kym Johnson compete during the celebrity dance competition "Dancing with the Stars," in Los Angeles on Monday, May 16, 2011.

History channel gives 10 hours to 'The Bible'

LOS ANGELES (AP)—As a kid in the 1960s, reality TV king Mark Burnett was thrilled by the special-effects miracle of a sundered Red Sea in "The Ten Commandments."

"How cool was that?" said the producer of "Survivor" and "The Apprentice," who watched Cecil B. DeMille's 1956 film when it aired on television.

Now it's Burnett's turn to wow a small-screen audience with epic Scripture stories: He and his wife, actress Roma Downey, are producing the 10-part docudrama "The Bible" for the History channel.

It's set to air in 2013, History channel President Nancy Dubuc said Tuesday.

The series will combine live action with computer-generated imagery to retell stories ranging from Noah and the Ark to Exodus to the crucifixion and resurrection of Jesus. Shooting is planned for the Middle East and elsewhere.

Burnett said he and Downey (who starred in a different look at faith, the fantasy series "Touched by an Angel") have been working on the project for two years. Both grew up with Scriptures, he in England and she in Ireland, but aren't on a mission, Burnett said.

"People apply personal meanings to the Bible. Our job is to tell the stories in an emotionally connected way," he

said, adding that much of great literature and its characters are rooted in the book.

The cable channel, which has done religious-focused projects since it debuted, was looking for a worthy follow to the 12-hour series "America: The Story of Us," Dubuc said.

For a new generation, "The Bible" provides a way to visit the work "in a visual and entertaining way" that may encourage viewers to seek more information, she said.

The project also has global appeal, of value to History and its 150-country reach, Dubuc said.

"The Bible" is among the channel's biggest ventures,

she said, declining to detail the budget.

History, which had partnered with Burnett on "Expedition Africa," had a series of talks with him about his wish to explore the Bible and his approach, Dubuc said.

It became apparent that "his vision was to do the Bible much the way we did 'The Story of Us,'" she said.

There is no conflict between the new series and the channel's brand, the executive said.

"Regardless of your beliefs—and we're not drawing on any feelings about the importance of faith—this is the most-studied book of all time," she said.

Woman in love with gay man wonders if they have a future

By **ABIGAIL VAN BUREN**
FROM UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

DEAR ABBY: I started a relationship with a co-worker. We went out for several months, and I found myself really enjoying his company. The feeling was mutual. After several months I told him I was developing feelings for him, more than just friends. He told me he was gay. I was shocked, saddened and angry all at the same time, but we went on to develop an even stronger friendship.

I have fallen in love with him, but I have had counseling and I believe those feelings are in check. We have a special bond that's hard to explain. For lack of a better term, we have used the words "soul mate" to describe this feeling. He has even said he would like a lifelong commitment with me and has thought about marrying me. He said holding hands, walks on the beach and romantic things aren't a problem for him to share with me, but he cannot offer me anything sexual.

He wants to share his life with me. We aren't kids—we're in our 40s and 50s. He's a wonderful man, and I do want him in my life. Is it wrong to think about a future with him?

CONFUSED ON WHAT TO DO

DEAR CONFUSED: It's not wrong to think about it. But while you're thinking, consider carefully how important sex is to you. Some, not all, women would be content with what he's offering. But what if you should meet someone? You also need to know whether this man is ready, willing and capable of forgoing a sexual relationship with a man. How would you feel about it if HE met someone?

My advice is not to make a decision this important alone. Check in with your therapist and examine all of your feelings there. Also, contact the Straight Spouse Network, which was mentioned in a recent column, and talk frankly with others who are involved in mixed relationships. You'll find it online at www.StraightSpouse.org.

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: I grew up thinking my mother was a good cook. Now that I'm married and have lived away from home for 10 years, I realize that Mom, with all her good intentions, was an awful cook. She was never adventurous, prefers canned and frozen foods, no vegetables and highly processed grains. I have chosen a completely opposite path and buy lots of natural, unprocessed fresh foods.

As a result, I now cook all the holiday meals—with Mom helping with the prep and small tasks. I have tried to encourage her to eat better and expand her horizons, but it isn't sinking in. Every time we have dinner at her house, I feel like I have just eaten at a fast-food establishment.

I don't want to be a control freak and say, "My way with dinners at my house only," but I'm struggling to find a compromise when she wants to "treat" us to dinner at her place. Suggestions?

FOODIE IN COLORADO

DEAR FOODIE: It's one thing to be a "foodie" and another to be a food snob. A "fast-food" meal once every few weeks won't kill you, so be a sport and let your mom reciprocate. And the next day, return to your normal routine to make up for it.

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: How do you politely refuse letting someone borrow something when he or she asks? Even if it's your best friend or a relative?

In the past, I have loaned items that were not returned in their original condition, or it was a pain in the neck to get them back in a timely manner when I needed them for myself. Help, please!

TOO UNSELFISH IN PORTLAND, ORE.

DEAR TOO UNSELFISH: Here's how. Smile and tell the person you no longer lend items to anyone, because they have been returned damaged or late, so that is now your "policy." Period.

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

To receive a collection of Abby's most memorable—and most frequently requested—poems and essays, send a business-sized, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for \$6 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby—Keepers Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included in the price.)

SHOWBIZ TIDBITS

David Schwimmer becomes a dad to baby girl, Cleo

LOS ANGELES (AP)—David Schwimmer is now a father. A spokeswoman for the 44-year-old actor and director says Schwimmer and his wife, Zoe Buckman, recently welcomed their first daughter. Publicist Ina Treciakas says baby Cleo Buckman Schwimmer was born May 8. Schwimmer was a star of TV's "Friends." He also lent his voice to the "Madagascar" animated movies.

Dilbert embraces deep personalization

PHILADELPHIA (AP)—The office life depicted in Dilbert often preys on real-life attitudes and fears. Now, readers of the character can swap places with the eternally befuddled office

drone and his not-so-sharp cubicle dwellers. Peanuts Worldwide, the marketing agent for Dilbert, says readers can now personalize up to 25 separate Dilbert comic strips with their own images and share them online with others. Created by Scott Adams, Dilbert is carried by more than 2,000 publications worldwide, printed collections and was even an animated series.

Harper Lee's sister supports book about author

NEW YORK (AP)—Harper Lee's sister says the author of "To Kill a Mockingbird" has indeed cooperated with a memoir about her. And the publisher has set a release date: fall 2013. The law firm Barnett, Bugg, Lee & Carter had released a signed

statement last month from Harper Lee disputing an announcement by Penguin Press that Marja Mills' "The Mockingbird Next Door" had been written with "full access" to the media-shy novelist. But Alice Lee, Harper Lee's sister, is a partner in the firm and said in a signed letter dated May 21 and released Monday by Penguin that the statement was prepared without her knowledge and "does not represent" the feelings of either sister. A woman who answered the phone at Barnett, Bugg declined comment and hung up on a reporter seeking comment.

Reworked 'Spider-Man' swings at the box office

NEW YORK (AP)—You apparently can't keep Spider-Man down, with or without Julie Taymor. The Broadway musi-

cal "Spider-Man: Turn Off the Dark" came in behind "Wicked" and "The Lion King" last week in its first full week after being reworked following the firing of Tony Award-winning director Taymor. The comic book musical earned \$1,260,794 from eight performances ending Sunday, or \$112,000 better than the haul pulled in by "The Book of Mormon," which came in fourth. "Wicked" had \$1,696,763, while Taymor's old show "The Lion King" earned \$1,649,365. The numbers for "Spider-Man" aren't too far off the highs it scored after beginning previews late last year, before being overhauled. Other shows that made more than \$1 million included "Jersey Boys," "Billy Elliot," "How to Succeed in Business" and "Priscilla Queen of the Desert."

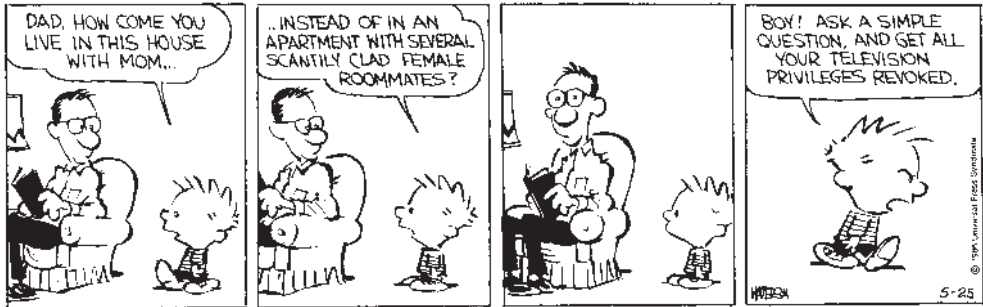
Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

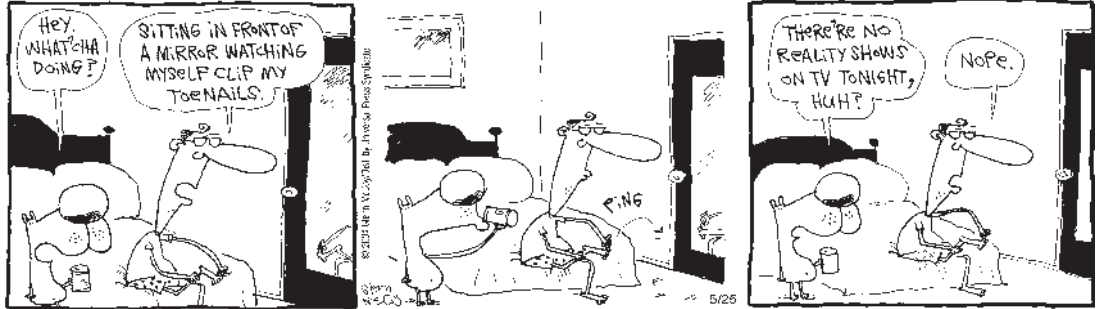
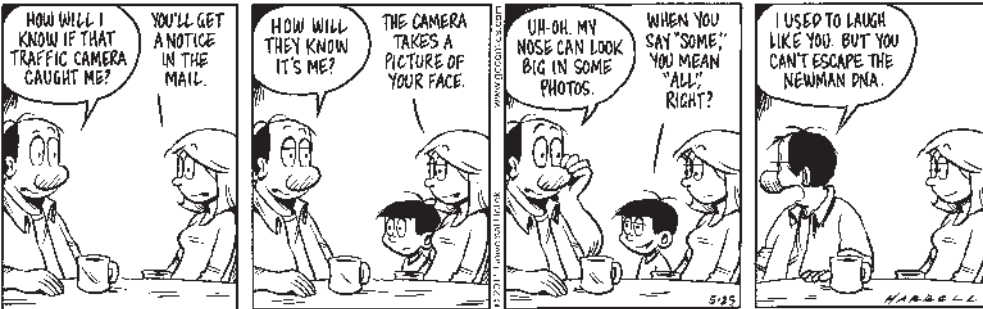


Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Phony coin
5 Bankroll
8 "Scrab-ble" piece
12 Sound of contentment
13 Ostrich's cousin
14 Elevator name
15 "No kidding!"
17 Works with
18 Kitchen whistler
19 Wine vessel
21 "Whadja say?"
22 Female red deer
23 Mueller's org.
26 Scarlet
28 Coral structures
31 Reply to "Shall we?"
33 Massage
35 Harvard rival
36 Retract one's words

DOWN

11 Being, to Brutus
16 Tea time
20 Melody
23 Winter ailment
24 Stiller or Affleck
25 "Meet you then"
27 Payable
29 Aviate
30 Witness
32 Mean ones
34 Open up, as a bud
37 Three
39 One of the Three Bears
42 Surname meaning "maker"
44 Gordon and Westheimer
45 Money
46 Sandwich cookie
48 Let gravity take over
49 Stare stupidly
50 Grand story
53 Pirouette pivot

Solution time: 21 mins.

C	A	R	D	S	H	A	I	C	E	D	
A	R	E	A	H	I	P	D	A	R	E	
M	I	N	D	S	E	E	O	D	I	N	
P	A	D	K	E	A	O	N	S	F	T	
			N	I	P		P	A	T		
T	A	L	E	S	B	E	R	M	U	D	A
A	V	I	V	F	E	W	I	N	O	N	
J	E	Z	E	B	E	L	K	N	O	W	N
			R	O	Z		D	I	D		
C	R	I	M	P	H	E	D	H	E	N	
L	O	C	I	M	I	N	D	G	A	M	E
U	P	O	N	A	S	S	O	L	I	O	
B	E	N	D	G	E	E	B	O	R	N	

Yesterday's answer 5-25

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Anne Heche, 42; Mike Myers, 48; Jacki Weaver, 64; Ian McKellen, 72

Happy Birthday: Demands will be great but so will rewards this year. Don't be discouraged if something doesn't go according to plan. Once you discover where and what is most important the rest will come easy. Change is necessary, so accept the inevitable and make it work for you. Your numbers are 3, 14, 22, 27, 32, 38, 45

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Someone who wants to control a situation in which you are involved will mislead you, using emotional tactics. Put some distance between you and the people playing dominant roles in your life. Don't neglect your responsibilities but protect your position, status and assets. ***

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): You will motivate and inspire others to give more and to take greater responsibility. Love and romance are highlighted. Socialize if you are single or plan a special evening for two if you are involved in a relationship. ****

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): You'll have trouble getting along with people in a position of authority. Difficulties with an associate may lead to a feud that won't be easy to resolve. Deal with your professional duties quickly. **

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Take note of the way others approach work and you will get some positive ideas to improve the way you do your job. Partnering with someone you feel you can learn something from will

enable you to view a concern you have from a different perspective. *****

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Don't trust anyone trying to entice you to take part in a fast-cash scheme. Put your money into something that will help you pick up knowledge and skills that will raise your earning potential. A difference of opinion can cause a problem regarding advancement. ***

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Travel, romance and gaining experience are all highlighted. Don't let an emotional obstacle stop you from following through with your plans or you will have regrets. Put a little pressure on whoever is in charge. ***

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): You may know what you want but trying to get others to accommodate you will not be easy. Fix up your home but don't go overboard. A wrong choice will be difficult to reverse. ***

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Plan your day carefully. Focus on what you can do to make your life better. An unusual approach to home improvements or recreational time spent with family will bring good results. Pamper yourself. *****

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Whether it's the information you are being fed or your timing that is off, it's best to take it slow and double check everything before you make a move. A poor choice based on emotions will lead to a mishap with a friend, neighbor or relative. **

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD
IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Getting involved with people from different backgrounds will lead to misunderstandings or an additional burden. Focus on the one you love and how you can make your place more inviting. Don't take on too many expenses. ****



AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): You'll be fed a lot of information. Don't take what everyone is telling you to heart. You have to do what works for you. Not everyone will understand where you are coming from or what your needs are. ***



PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Don't be fooled by what someone tells you. Rely on the people you have known and trusted the longest. A chance to get ahead professionally is apparent if you are creative, imaginative and willing to give an old idea a new twist. ***



Birthday Baby: You are sensitive and respectful. You see the big picture, you work hard and you are intent on helping others.

Eugenia's Web sites: eugenialast.com for confidential consultations, myspace.com/eugenialast for Eugenia's blog, astroadvice.com for fun

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green

			6	4	8	1	3			
		1							5	
3										6
4		1	3		9	8				7
2										5
7		5					6			3
1				9	3	6				8
	2								3	
			9	5	2	7	4			

Difficulty Level ★★

5/25

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Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

9	3	5	8	2	6	7	4	1
8	4	2	1	5	7	3	6	9
7	6	1	3	9	4	2	8	5
1	2	7	9	8	5	4	3	6
5	9	4	2	6	3	1	7	8
6	8	3	7	4	1	5	9	2
3	1	8	6	7	2	9	5	4
4	7	6	5	1	9	8	2	3
2	5	9	4	3	8	6	1	7

Difficulty Level ★★

5/25

WONDERWORD

By DAVID QUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD. The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

SNAKE CHARMERS

Solution: 7 letters

P	V	M	S	A	F	E	G	N	E	V	A	C	S	R
I	E	I	A	N	N	I	A	R	T	R	E	S	E	D
C	N	R	P	R	O	T	E	C	T	I	O	N	R	E
U	O	S	F	E	K	H	D	N	U	O	R	G	P	F
R	M	B	T	O	R	E	T	H	O	O	D	O	E	A
L	G	A	R	R	R	S	T	Y	C	T	T	T	N	N
I	L	M	H	A	U	M	A	H	P	I	U	O	T	G
N	A	B	O	S	S	M	A	B	O	L	T	N	S	N
G	N	O	R	L	U	R	E	N	F	A	P	G	E	I
N	D	O	N	L	M	S	K	N	C	E	Y	U	L	L
I	S	T	E	R	T	S	E	T	E	G	E	A	D	
Y	N	T	D	P	U	F	F	A	D	D	E	R	E	N
A	S	D	T	S	E	Z	I	T	O	N	P	Y	H	A
L	T	S	I	R	U	O	T	U	R	B	A	N	S	H
P	S	G	N	A	F	E	S	T	I	V	A	L	S	S

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5/25

Amulets, Bamboo, Charm, Cobras, Corner, Curling, Defang, Desert, Egypt, Fangs, Festivals, Flute, Ground, Handling, Heal, Hood, Horned, Hypnotizes, India, Instrument, Market, Performance, Playing, Potion, Protection, Puff Adder, Pythons, Safe, Scavenge, Serpents, Spells, Street, Test, Tongue, Tourist, Train, Tune, Turbans, Venom Glands, Vipers

Yesterday's Answer: Reptile

Today's word is based on the letters of the word "reptile". The word "reptile" is a 7-letter word. The word "reptile" is a 7-letter word. The word "reptile" is a 7-letter word.

STUMPED?

For answers to today's crossword, call 1-900-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

Mavs rally from 15 down, stun Thunder in OT, 112-105



OKLAHOMA CITY (AP)—Trailing by 15 points with only 5 minutes to play in one of the NBA's rowdiest arenas, the Dallas Mavericks were just wishing and hoping for the best.

Dirk Nowitzki and Jason Kidd delivered, and the Mavs suddenly find themselves only one win away from the NBA finals.

Nowitzki scored 40 points, Kidd hit the go-ahead 3-pointer with 40 seconds left in overtime and the Mavericks staged an improbable rally to stun the Oklahoma City Thunder 112-105 on Monday night and take a 3-1 lead in the Western Conference finals.

"You're lying if you're not surprised. Down 15 with 5 minutes to play you're thinking hopefully something can happen," Dallas center Brendan Haywood said. "You're just kind of wishing."

Dallas didn't lead until Nowitzki hit two free throws 16 seconds into overtime, needing to rally from a 99-84 deficit in the final 5 minutes of regulation. The Mavericks never let the Thunder—who were one win shy of tying an NBA record with eight OT wins in the regular season—go ahead in the extra period.

"There's times and situations where they are going to test the courage and the mental inner strength of your team," said Jason Terry, who scored 20 for Dallas. "This was one of those times."

"This was a defining moment in our season where we look back and say, 'Hey, that was the game'"

Kevin Durant missed a 3-pointer on Oklahoma City's opening possession of overtime then didn't get another shot until he missed a 3 off the front rim in the final 10 seconds with the Thunder down by five.

Durant finished with 29 points and 15 rebounds, and Serge Ibaka had 18 points and 10 boards for Oklahoma City. Russell Westbrook added 19 points, eight rebounds and eight assists.

The Thunder suffered their first consecutive losses of the postseason and first back-to-back home losses in six months.

Only two teams have come back from 3-1 deficits in NBA history without the benefit of home-court advantage in Game 7—Houston in the 1995 West semifinals and Boston in the 1968 East finals.

"There's no doubt it was a tough loss," Oklahoma City coach Scott Brooks said. "If this loss did not hurt, there's no such thing as a loss that can hurt you."

Game 5 is Wednesday night in Dallas.

"We worked really hard these two games to win, and none of that guarantees anything for Game 5. We know that," said coach Rick Carlisle, whose Mavs have won at least 50 games in 11 straight seasons

with no titles and only one trip to the NBA finals to show for it.

"All of us involved with this team have been through a lot of these wars. We understand our position that we're in. We respect it. We're very humble about it. We've got to get ourselves revved up and ready for Wednesday, because that's an opportunity."

Durant had nine of the Thunder's 26 turnovers, including the one that led to the big shot by the 38-year-old Kidd.

Kidd stripped him as he went up for a shot with just over a minute left in overtime, then took a pass from Nowitzki, pump-faked to get Westbrook in the air and stepped up to drill a 3-pointer to put Dallas up 108-105 with 40.3 seconds left.

Kidd scored 17 to go with seven assists, five rebounds and four steals.

"Everybody asks questions about the age and all that other stuff," Carlisle said, "but the thing I'd say to anybody is, 'Never underestimate greatness.'"

Westbrook missed on a drive on Oklahoma City's next possession, and Terry hit two free throws with 13 seconds left to give the Mavs a two-possession lead. Durant finally got another shot off, squatting with his head hanging down as Kidd walked up for two free throws to provide the final margin.

"We kept believing," Nowitzki said. "I think finally we got some rebounds. I think that was killing us all night long. We got second-chance points, tipouts. In the last couple minutes we got great stops, finally got some rebounds, and it really helped us (with) our flow. They couldn't really guard us off the transition and we needed to get some stops and that was big down the stretch."

Durant said all the Thunder can do now is try to be positive.

"It's not over yet," he said.

With much of the sellout crowd remaining on its feet, the Thunder grabbed control with two separate bursts of seven straight points early in the fourth quarter. Durant had a two-handed slam and a 3-pointer off an offensive rebound in the second run, gesturing as though he were slapping on a pro wrestling championship belt after the 3 made it 99-84 with 5:06 remaining.

He hadn't won anything yet, though, especially with guard James Harden fouling out just after Dallas started the closing run in regulation.

The Mavericks limited the Thunder to just one basket the rest of the way and tied it at 101 on Nowitzki's two free throws with 6.4 seconds left. Nowitzki scored 12 points during the Mavs' 17-2 run and got fouled by Nick Collison, who grabbed the big German's hip as he lunged to tip the ball away, before hitting both foul shots to tie it.

Shawn Marion blocked Durant's 3-pointer at least 30 feet



from the basket with 2 seconds left, and the Mavs couldn't convert a chance at the win when Kidd's inbounds lob with 0.7 seconds left hit the rim.

Oklahoma City came roaring out of the gates after trailing by as many as 17 points in the first quarter of Game 3. The Thunder hit their first nine shots and took an 18-8 lead after Durant caught a deflected inbounds pass and zoomed in for a right-handed jam.

They never quite could shake Dallas, though. The Mavericks were still within five at halftime and within 79-77 in the final minute of the third quarter.

"It goes without saying that it was a tough loss to accept, but it is a loss and we have to learn from it," Brooks said. "I thought our guys played as hard as a basketball game as you can play. They were physical, we challenged shots, we struggled a little bit down the stretch with execution and throughout the game we struggled with turnovers."

Dallas Mavericks' Dirk Nowitzki (41) of Germany goes up for a shot as Oklahoma City Thunder's Serge Ibaka (9) of Republic of Congo defends at the basket in the second half of Game 4 of the NBA Western Conference finals basketball series Monday, May 23, 2011, in Oklahoma City.

AP

Noah fined \$50,000 by NBA for remark to fan

MIAMI (AP)—Chicago Bulls center Joakim Noah was fined \$50,000 on Monday for directing an anti-gay slur at a fan during Game 3 of the Eastern Conference finals, and vowed to learn from the incident.

The NBA released its decision hours after speaking with Noah, saying the fine was "for using a derogatory and offensive term from the bench."

The fine is only half of what Los Angeles Lakers' star Kobe Bryant was assessed for shouting the same slur toward a referee last month, and the league said the discrepancy was because the sanction against Bryant was based on both what he said—and who he said it to.

"Kobe's fine included discipline for verbal abuse of a game official," NBA spokesman Mark Broussard said.

Noah and NBA officials met Monday morning. Noah said he emerged from that talk prepared to "pay the price" for what happened when he returned to the bench with two fouls midway through the first quarter of Sunday night's game against the Miami Heat.

That price turned out to be 1.6 percent of his roughly \$3.1 million salary this season. Noah agreed to an extension last year, worth about \$60 million through the 2015-16 season.

Meanwhile, two major advocacy groups quickly called

upon the league to both sanction Noah and help further educate players on the topic.

"The fan said something that was disrespectful towards me," Noah said, about five hours before the fine was announced. "And I went back at him. Got it on camera. I don't want to hurt anybody's feelings. Anybody who knows me knows that I'm not like that. I'm an open-minded guy. I said the wrong thing and I'm going to pay the consequences—deal with the consequences—like a man. I don't want to be a distraction to the team right now."

Television cameras captured Noah saying an expletive, followed by the slur. Noah said he did not realize the gravity of the situation until he was questioned by reporters after the game Sunday, adding that he meant "no disrespect" to anyone.

Bryant was fined \$100,000 last month, and just last week, Phoenix Suns president and CEO Rick Welts revealed he was gay, a rare acknowledgement for someone holding a prominent position in men's sports.

"We know what business we are in," Heat forward LeBron James said Monday. "Emotions get played. ... I don't think it was right what he said. But emotions do get said over the course of the game. We know there's going to be microphones. We

know there's going to be cameras around. You just have to be cautious about what you say and just try to control your emotions as much as possible."

The Heat won Sunday's game 96-85, taking a 2-1 lead in the best-of-seven series. Game 4 is Tuesday night in Miami.

The Gay & Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation, or GLAAD, said it reached out to the NBA and the Bulls on Monday "to discuss next steps," and called upon the league to reiterate to its players that anti-gay words should not be tolerated in the game.

"Last month the NBA sent an important message about how such slurs fuel a climate of intolerance and are unacceptable," GLAAD President Jarrett Barrios said in a statement. "These anti-gay remarks, coming so soon after, demonstrate how much needs to be done."

GLAAD said it has started a partnership with Bryant and the Lakers following the April incident in Los Angeles. Also Monday, the Human Rights Campaign called Noah's use of the slur "just plain unacceptable."

"At a time when the NBA and a growing number of pro-athletes are publicly standing up for equality, it's too bad Mr. Noah worked against their efforts last night," HRC President Joe Solmonese said. "That said, we're pleased he quickly

realized the error of his ways and apologized."

Some of Noah's teammates stood up for him Monday, saying that the fan went too far in whatever comments were directed toward the Bulls' bench. Taj Gibson said the man repeatedly directed verbal abuse toward the Bulls, and other players insisted that was true.

"It wasn't just one time or two times," said Bulls forward Luol Deng, who declined to say what comments the fan may have made. "He just kept going and it became really annoying. He just lost his temper."

Bulls forward Carlos Boozer said he was not aware of exactly what took place in the bench area, but noted it happens somewhat regularly.

"That's a part of the game," Boozer said. "Fans have the right to say what they want to say after they buy their tickets. Unfortunately sometimes, for us, we just have to sit there and take it. Unfortunately, that's part of sports."

Noah repeated often Monday that he was apologetic for the incident. He said he would "learn from my mistakes," and acknowledged that being frustrated over picking up his second foul did not excuse his words.

"I'll remember," Noah said. "I'll remember it for a long time."

Djokovic wins 1st match in Paris; now 38-0 in 2011



PARIS (AP)—Shhhhhh! Don't say a word. Novak Djokovic is perfect so far in 2011, and superstition demands silence, lest he be jinxed.

Djokovic himself insists he isn't keeping tabs on his unbeaten run, which reached 38-0 this season—and 40 consecutive victories dating to December—thanks to a 6-2, 6-1, 6-3 win over Thiemo de Bakker of the Netherlands in the first round of the French Open on Monday.

"I'm not counting," the second-seeded Djokovic said with a smile.

"I'm not trying to think about the streak that I have," he added, "even though it's definitely something that makes me proud."

Others certainly are thinking about it. Indeed, it's the talk of the year's second Grand Slam tournament. Straight-set victories Monday at Roland Garros by other top players such as Roger Federer, top-seeded Caroline Wozniacki or defending champion Francesca Schiavone—and even 2010 semifinalist Tomas Berdych's surprising five-set loss to a French qualifier—didn't merit as much attention as Djokovic did.

The Serb, who won his second Australian Open title in January, is closing in on the Open era record for best start to a tennis season by a man, John McEnroe's 42-0 in 1984. He's also only the sixth man in the Open era to win 40 matches in a row; Guillermo Vilas set the high of 46 in 1977.

But Djokovic's pals on tour aren't exactly making a big deal about it at the moment.

"In the beginning—I know him very well—I'd kind of joke, 'Hey, let someone else win.' ... Now you almost stay away. It's almost like a pitcher going for a no-hitter," said the highest-seeded American, No. 10 Mardy Fish, who beat Ricardo Mello of Brazil 6-2, 6-7 (11), 6-2, 6-4.

"I don't want to say anything about it," Fish explained. "I don't want to be the guy that says, 'Hey, by the way, you're 38-0,' or whatever he is. 'Don't lose.' I don't want to be that guy, and then have him lose."

Back on April 1, Djokovic moved to 23-0 this season by beating Fish in the semifinals in Key Biscayne, Fla.

Djokovic then defeated No. 1-ranked Rafael Nadal in the final there, part of a 7-0 mark against him and Federer in 2011. Victories over Nadal—who begins his bid for a record-tying sixth title at Roland Garros on Tuesday—on clay at Madrid and Rome this month have many believing Djokovic could become the first man to win the Australian Open and French Open in the same year since Jim Courier in 1992.

Djokovic called it an "amazing streak," and acknowledged, of course, that he never could have expected to be unbeaten in late May.



Novak Djokovic of Serbia serves to Thiemo de Bakker of The Netherlands during the first round match of the French Open tennis tournament at Roland Garros stadium in Paris, Monday May 23, 2011.

"I'm really trying to have the right mental approach to every match that I play, try to think about only winning, about (my) next opponent," Djokovic said. "This is what keeps me on the ground and keeps me very focused."

He says his success is due to a combination of factors, including a gluten-free diet, which he has declined to discuss in any detail in Paris—"I can't talk about it," Djokovic explained Monday, "because it's private"—but credits with helping him overcome previous problems with allergies and playing in extreme heat.

In the second round, he'll meet 60th-ranked Victor Hanesu of Romania. Win that, and Djokovic could take on 25th-seeded Juan Martin del Potro of Argentina. The 2009 U.S. Open champion hasn't been the same player since right wrist surgery last year but got past 6-foot-10 Ivo Karlovic of Croatia 6-7 (7), 6-3, 7-5, 6-4, then declared: "I'm not thinking about Djokovic yet."

Way down the line, Djokovic's semifinal opponent could be Federer, who completed his career Grand Slam by winning the 2009 French Open, part of his 16 major titles overall.

"Roger can beat anybody if he plays good," was the assessment offered by Feliciano Lopez, the Spaniard who never managed to earn a single break point Monday and lost to Federer 6-3, 6-4, 7-6 (3).

The last time Federer was in tournament action, at Rome on May 12, he was losing in the third round.

The last time he faced Lopez, at Madrid a week earlier, Federer was forced to save a match point before pulling out a 7-6 (13), 6-7 (1), 7-6 (7) struggle.

But Monday's Federer looked more like the Federer people are used to seeing, even if he's "only" reached two semifinals and two quarterfinals at the past four major tournaments. The man who upset him at Wimbledon en route to last year's final, the sixth-seeded Berdych, made a quick exit, blowing a two-set-to-none lead, then later wasting a match point, in a 3-6, 3-6, 6-2, 6-2, 9-7 loss to 140th-ranked Stephane Robert.

Two other seeded men lost: No. 22 Michael Llodra of France, and No. 26 Milos Raonic of Canada.

Llodra left on an ugly note, likening the atmosphere at his court to an Arab marketplace after receiving a warning from Moroccan chair umpire Mohamed El Jennati for throwing a ball at a female security guard in the stands.

TV footage showed Llodra telling El Jennati: "We are not in a souk. We are not selling carpets in a market."

Tournament organizers told The Associated Press that El Jennati was not available for comment because he is not allowed to speak to the media during the two-week tournament.

Hamilton, Cruz hit HRs, Ogando throws shutout



ARLINGTON, Texas (AP)—Josh Hamilton and Nelson Cruz both homered in their return to the Texas Rangers lineup and Alexi Ogando threw a five-hitter for his first career shutout in a 4-0 win over the Chicago White Sox on Monday.

Hamilton, the reigning American League most valuable player, got his first homer of the season when he pulled a line drive over the right-field wall in the first off John Danks (0-7), who also threw a complete game. Hamilton added a double in the eighth.

Indians 3, Red Sox 2

At Cleveland, Asdrubal Cabrera's two-out RBI double in the eighth inning—the latest big hit delivered by Cleveland's shortstop—rallied the Indians to a win over Boston, which also lost second baseman Dustin Pedroia with a leg injury.

Cabrera, who went 5 for 5 with two homers and five RBIs on Sunday, drove his double off reliever Daniel Bard (1-4) to the wall in left field, scoring Michael Brantley and helping the Indians win their fourth straight and improve to 19-4 at home.

Blue Jays 7, Yankees 3

At New York, J.P. Arencibia hit a three-run double in a five-run sixth inning and Jose Bautista homered to back spot starter Carlos Villanueva and lift Toronto to a victory over New York.

Starting in place of injured Jesse Litsch, Villanueva (2-0) limited the Yankees to two hits and a run in five innings. With a looping curveball, he struck out the side to open his first start since Oct. 3, 2009, for Milwaukee.

Tigers 6, Rays 3

At Detroit, Victor Martinez hit a two-run double and Jhonny Peralta had a two-run single in the eighth inning to lift Detroit to a win over Tampa Bay.

Charlie Furbush (1-0) pitched 3 2-3 scoreless innings of relief in his major league debut after Detroit starter Phil Coke was injured.

Mariners 8, Twins 7

At Minneapolis, Luis Rodriguez hit a sacrifice fly in the 10th inning as Seattle rallied to win its sixth straight game, beating Jim Thome and Minnesota.

Carlos Peguero's single in the ninth scored Michael Saunders and tied the game, helping the

Mariners overcome Thome's powerful return to the lineup.

Angels 4, Athletics 1

At Anaheim, California, Torii Hunter threw out the potential go-ahead run at the plate in the seventh inning and doubled home the go-ahead run in the eighth to lead the Los Angeles Angels over Oakland.

Bobby Abreu grounded into a fielder's choice after former Angels closer Brian Fuentes (1-7) opened the inning by walking Erick Aybar. Hunter greeted Michael Wuertz with a double to the wall in right-center on a 2-2 pitch, easily scoring Abreu. Jeff Mathis capped the rally with a two-out, two-run single off Wuertz, who came in with .103 opponents batting average — the best among AL relievers.

Phillies 10, Red 3

At Philadelphia, Jimmy Rollins, Placido Polanco and Raul Ibanez homered to back Cole Hamels as the Philadelphia Phillies handed the Cincinnati Reds their sixth straight loss.

Chase Utley returned to Philadelphia's lineup after missing the first 46 games with a right knee injury. The five-time All-Star second baseman was

0 for 5, the only starter without a hit.

Brewers 11, Nationals 3

At Milwaukee, Corey Hart hit his first three home runs this season and drove in seven to tie both club records to lift surging Milwaukee past Washington.

Hitless in his previous 11 at-bats, Hart smacked two-run shots in the first and fifth innings off Tom Gorzelanny (2-4) to reach 100 homers for his career. He finished with a three-run homer off Doug Slaten with two outs in the eighth.

Cardinals 3, Padres 1

At San Diego, Albert Pujols hit his first home run in 106 at-bats to end the longest drought of his career as St. Louis scored two runs off Heath Bell in the ninth.

The National League Central-leading Cardinals won for the seventh time in eight games. The Padres have lost six of seven, and their 8-19 home record is the worst in the NL.

Astros 4, Dodgers 3

At Houston, Hunter Pence's two-out RBI single in the ninth inning lifted Houston over Los Angeles.

The Astros trailed 3-1 entering the ninth inning before Michael Bourn tied it with his two-out, full-count double down the right-field line that scored two against Kenley Jansen (1-1).

Dickinson sweeps electric class anew

Jude Dickinson dominated the electric stock A main and open class short course races for the second month in a row as the Saipan Radio Control Racers held its May club races last Sunday at the As Lito track.

In addition, Jojo Saracho won the 1/8 Nitro Truggy class and Jude “Butter” Dickinson Jr. topped the podium in the stock

A Saipan Radio Control Racer club member navigates his electric car through the short course during last Sunday's monthly club races in As Lito.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



CNMI May Masters this weekend



The 29th CNMI May Masters Bowling Tournament will take place this weekend at the Saipan Bowling Center with several Guam keglers expected to join the hosts in the three-day competition.

The first day of the tournament will be held on Friday and will feature singles, doubles, and team events. Participants in Friday's roll-off will play only three games and the team event is open for only four bowlers. Registration will begin at 1:30pm, while the singles game is set at 2pm.

The doubles and team events will begin at 4:15pm and 6:30pm.

Raymond Angeles will be defending his men's singles title this weekend, as he won the event last year, besting 32 bowlers. In the women's division, the defending champion is Guam's Cherry Catbagan. Other winners last year were Alex Castro and Robert Talavera (men's doubles) division, while Arlene Taitague and Maddison Willis of Guam (women's doubles), Richard Leong, Danny Robles, Percy Omechelang, and Rusty Musca (men's team), and Gina Sablan, Jerrie Vales, Gigi Zapanta, and

Ron Cal (women's team).

The singles, doubles, and team competitions will continue on Saturday from 9am to 2pm. Then at 6pm, the centerpiece event—the May Masters—women's division, will start with female keglers playing 12 games. There should be at least 12 bowlers registered to proceed with the competition and the bowler to record the highest pinfalls wins the tournament.

Catbagan ruled last year's women's May Masters, as she collected 2,215 pinfalls in 12 games to beat 24 other participants, including fellow Guam

bowler and eventual runner-up Leanne Rankin (2, 131).

Guam and Saipan split the May Masters crown last year, as Castro won for the host. Castro knocked down 2,563 pins to win against 25 other male keglers and he will go for back-to-back titles this Sunday when the May Masters, men's division, kicks off at 9am.

The three-day tournament, which is supported by Budweiser, Marpac, Jet Holdings/Saipan Bowling Center, Shirley's Coffee Shop, Jerry Tan, and IT&E, will conclude with an awards ceremony at 6pm at Shirley's Coffee Shop in Supe. *(Roselyn B. Monroyo)*

KANG

From Page 28

corded on Feb. 5, 2011.

The 8-year-old Kang was one of the only three swimmers who competed in the 100m backstroke and he defeated Sapan Swim Club's Kento Akimaru (1:27.87). Keanna Villagomez of SSC made the best time in the event at 1:25.81.

In the last swim of the day, Kang joined Ryuto Yanai in the 50m breaststroke race with

the latter first crushing the age group mark of that event before the former reset it. Ryuto Yanai finished the 50m breaststroke event at 47.67 seconds, breaking the 48.35 Kang tallied on Feb. 5, 2011. Kang then regained the record when he timed in at 47.57 seconds.

After their record-breaking swims last weekend, Ryuto Yanai now holds four age group marks in the U8 division (50m, 100m, and 200m freestyle, and 50m butterfly), while Kang owns six (50 and

100m backstroke, 50m and 100m breaststroke, 100m butterfly, and 200m individual medley). Kang and Ryuto Yanai's records were made this year, leaving Kensuke Kimura's 400m freestyle mark (6:09.93) the oldest in the division as it was logged on Feb. 25, 2005.

Tsunami Sapan coach Hiro Kimura praised Kang and Ryuto Yanai for their feats and believed the two swimmers will break more records in the future.

“Lukas is 8 years old now

and has seven more months before he turns nine, so he still has time to break U8 records. Lukas' 100m backstroke time is so closed to the 9 to 10 age group record (1:26.08/Keith Ludwig, Oct. 5, 1980) and he defeated 10-year-old Kento Akimaru, who is 9 to 10 record holder in the 50m backstroke,” Kimura said.

“Ryuto is still 7 years old, but his time standard is AAAA already. These two young boys are having monster swims,” he added.

READY

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lifting, weightlifting, and tennis will need upgrades.

In contrast, the CNMI track facility is one of the bests in the region and is now under the Northern Marianas Athletics' management. Then just last Tuesday, the Saipan and Northern Islands Legislative Delegation approved the \$10,000 appropriation for the maintenance of the facility. Its grandstand was just

built last year and can accommodate 1,000 spectators. An expansion to the grandstand has been proposed and it will seat an additional 2,500 individuals.

Inside the Oleai Complex is the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium, which is the proposed venue for basketball and volleyball. The Ada Gym is now closed to the public for renovation. A new roofing, floor, and bleachers will be installed with renovations expected to be completed this September. Other existing facilities in the CNMI are in

good condition and will only need minor repairs.

The CNMI is offering 11 sports for the 2017 Mini Games. The list includes athletics, football, golf, swimming, lawn tennis, canoe racing (va'a), beach and indoor volleyball, baseball, sailing, and triathlon. Both Nauru and Vanuatu did not list swimming in its calendar of events, while the CNMI has the 50-meter Kan Pacific Swimming Pool in Marpi for the competition. An under construction 25-meter pool at Saipan South-

ern High School can also be considered a venue.

The battle for the hosting rights for the 2017 Mini Games became a three-nation competition after Norfolk Island withdrew its bid last Sunday.

“We are hopeful that Norfolk will throw whatever support they had over to us. Our most serious competition was and still is Vanuatu. Our biggest advantage is our per diem, which is the lowest (\$30). Also, we have never hosted the Games before, whereas Vanuatu has,” White said.

WILD

From Page 28

three different players to beat Wild Bill's.

Wild Bill's led at the half, 1-0, off an own goal, but failed to hang on to the driver's seat when MP United found its form in the second half.

Jae Hyuck Yim found the back of the net in the 57th min-

ute to tie the game and Kirk Schuler broke the deadlock with his goal in the 87th minute. Markos Xiang also scored for MP United in the 90th minute for the come-from-behind win.

Paire 3, KFAS 2

In the other Division A game last Sunday, David Loan hit a goal eight minutes before the game ended to lift Paire to a 3-2 win over Korean Football Asso-

ciation on Saipan.

KFAS took a 1-0 lead off Sang Ho Choi's goal in the third minute. Then Paire grabbed the lead at the break, 2-1, after an own goal in the 35th minute and Jason Schroeder's goal five minutes later.

KFAS tied the match, 2-all, off Dae Hee Yo's goal in the 70th minute before Loan logged the game-winning goal 12 minutes later.

DIVISION B

Matansa 6, MP United 1

In the lone Division B game last week, Matansa clobbered MP United Blue, 6-1.

Bir Tamang scored two goals for Matansa, while Jun Liu, Dhiraj Chetri, Tej Gurung, and Hong Tao Zhao had one each.

Taek Han Yoon recorded MP United Blue's lone goal in the game in the 15th minute.

short B main class.

Dickinson's Traxxas-Slash car won the pole in the stock short A main class qualifier heat and went on to beat runner-up Paul Salalila, also Traxxas-Slash affiliated, and third place Leo Gatus of Team Losi XXX-TC in the finals.

Dickinson then followed suit in the open short class and finished as the top qualifier and overall winner ahead of Salalila's Kyosho Ultima SC-R and third place finisher Gatus.

Rodney Catalla's Team Associated RC8T was the top qualifier in the Nitro Truggy race, but did not manage a podium spot in the final heat.

Instead, Saracho's Mugen MBX6T stole the checkered flag ahead of Rommel Isidro's Mugen MBX5T and third place driver Emir Abuan's Kyosho STRR.

Paul Guerrero won the pole in the stock short B main class, but had to settle for a third place behind runner-up Kurt Diaz and winner Butter Dickinson. All three competitors drove Traxxas-Slash cars.

There are over 20 active SRCR members, and growing, who regularly take part in practices at the As Lito track every Saturday from 2pm to 6pm.

The SRCR tries to hold a day-long monthly race usually on a Sunday from 9am to 5pm in its two racing classes. The novice class was added because of the recent additional turnout. The public is welcome to check out the track to learn more about the sport hobby.

For more information, contact Catalla at 234-5911, 256-7119, or email drcc35@yahoo.com. *(Walter Cepeda-Sutherland)*

SAIPAN

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The CNMI district competition will start this Saturday at 8:30am with the Majors division squads opening the tournament at the Ogo Field in Sinapalo. The Juniors, Seniors, and Big League matches will be played at the Liyog Baseball Field in Songsong.

The winner of the Majors competition will represent the CNMI in the 2011 Asia Pacific Regionals, which Guam will be

hosting from July 7 to 15. The victor of the Junior League will travel to Jakarta, Indonesia for the regionals set from June 26 to 29, while champions in the Senior and Big League divisions will go to the Philippines, which will hold the regionals from June 26 to July 1.

In the past several years, Saipan all-star teams represented the Commonwealth to the regionals and last year, the CNMI youth sluggers made it all the way to the World Series (Senior League division) in Bangor, Maine.



TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

MLB STANDINGS

AMERICAN LEAGUE

East Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
New York	25	21	.543	—
Tampa Bay	26	22	.542	—
Boston	25	22	.532	1/2
Toronto	24	23	.511	1 1/2
Baltimore	21	24	.467	3 1/2

Central Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Cleveland	30	15	.667	—
Detroit	24	23	.511	7
Kansas City	22	24	.478	8 1/2
Chicago	22	27	.449	10
Minnesota	15	31	.326	15 1/2

West Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Texas	25	23	.521	—
Los Angeles	25	24	.510	1/2
Seattle	23	24	.489	1 1/2
Oakland	22	26	.458	3

NATIONAL LEAGUE

East Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Philadelphia	29	18	.617	—
Florida	26	19	.578	2
Atlanta	26	23	.531	4
New York	22	24	.478	6 1/2
Washington	21	26	.447	8

Central Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
St. Louis	29	20	.592	—
Cincinnati	25	23	.521	3 1/2
Milwaukee	25	23	.521	3 1/2
Pittsburgh	22	24	.478	5 1/2
Chicago	20	25	.444	7
Houston	18	30	.375	10 1/2

West Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
San Francisco	27	19	.587	—
Colorado	23	22	.511	3 1/2
Arizona	23	23	.500	4
Los Angeles	21	28	.429	7 1/2
San Diego	19	29	.396	9

Yesterday's Games

Philadelphia 10, Cincinnati 3	
Houston 4, L.A. Dodgers 3	
Milwaukee 11, Washington 3	
St. Louis 3, San Diego 1	
Cleveland 3, Boston 2	
Detroit 6, Tampa Bay 3	
Toronto 7, N.Y. Yankees 3	
Texas 4, Chicago White Sox 0	
Seattle 8, Minnesota 7, 10 innings	
L.A. Angels 4, Oakland 1	

Rose, CHI	13	124	97	366	28.2
Nowitzki, DAL	13	120	107	360	27.7
Howard, ORL	6	51	60	162	27.0
Anthony, NYK	4	33	29	104	26.0
James, MIA	12	106	76	305	25.4
Wade, MIA	12	105	88	304	25.3
Westbrook, OKC	15	117	107	355	23.7
Bryant, LAL	10	83	50	228	22.8
Randolph, MEM	13	100	87	289	22.2
Paul, NOR	6	42	39	132	22.0
Granger, IND	5	43	14	108	21.6
Aldridge, POR	6	53	19	125	20.8
Pierce, BOS	9	68	30	187	20.8
Ginobili, SAN	5	31	32	103	20.6
Parker, SAN	6	43	31	118	19.7
Allen, BOS	9	57	24	170	18.9
Johnson, ATL	12	87	34	226	18.8
Terry, DAL	13	80	41	228	17.5
Bosh, MIA	12	74	55	203	16.9

FG Percentage

	FG	FGA	PCT
Howard, ORL	51	81	.630
Brand, PHIL	34	62	.548
Paul, NOR	42	77	.545
Bynum, LAL	57	105	.543
Allen, BOS	57	109	.523
Gasol, MEM	72	141	.511
Nowitzki, DAL	120	236	.508
Roy, POR	22	44	.500
Lawson, DEN	26	52	.500
Miller, POR	33	67	.493

Rebounds

	G	OFF	DEF	TOT	AVG
Howard, ORL	6	27	66	93	15.5
Gasol, MEM	13	41	105	146	11.2
Garnett, BOS	9	21	77	98	10.9
Randolph, MEM	13	43	98	141	10.8
Duncan, SAN	6	16	47	63	10.5
Noah, CHI	13	60	76	136	10.5
Anthony, NYK	4	13	28	41	10.3
Camby, POR	6	18	40	58	9.7
Bynum, LAL	10	36	60	96	9.6
Horford, ATL	12	25	90	115	9.6

Assists

	G	AST	AVG
Paul, NOR	6	69	11.5
Rondo, BOS	9	86	9.6
Rose, CHI	13	104	8.0
Kidd, DAL	13	98	7.5
Iguodala, PHIL	5	34	6.8
Conley, MEM	13	83	6.4
Westbrook, OKC	15	95	6.3
Holiday, PHIL	5	28	5.6
Miller, POR	6	33	5.5
Parker, SAN	6	31	5.2

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

NBA LEADERS

Scoring

	G	FG	FT	PTS	AVG
Durant, OKC	15	138	127	435	29.0

2011 NMIFA Youth Spring Girls U15 League

PHOTOS By ROSELYN B. MONROYO



Paire and MP United players battle for the ball.



A Tan Holdings player dribbles against MP United defenders.



MP United's Gabrielle Race gets ready to cross the ball over to her teammate.



Tan Holdings and MP United players collide near midcourt.



A Paire striker kicks the ball during their game against MP United.



MP United bench players watch action in the first half of its game against Tan Holdings.



A Tan Holdings striker uses her knees to keep the ball away from MP United defenders.



Paire players huddle after beating Matansa in the second round of the competition.



Northern Mariana Islands Football Federation's Vickie Izuka awards the championship trophy to Matansa Football Club during a brief presentation last weekend at the Hopwood Junior High School Field.

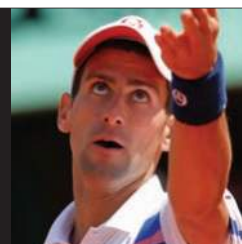


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Saipan Tribune Sports

Djokovic wins
1st match in
Paris; now
38-0 in 2011

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28 WEDNESDAY, MAY 25, 2011

SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Kang, Yanai reset swim records



Yanai



Kang

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Tsunami Swimming Center Saipan's Lukas Kang and Ryu-to Yanai continued to pile up records in the boys U8 division, setting two more CNMI age group marks apiece after a short meet last Saturday at the Kan Pacific Swimming Pool in Marpi.

Ready facilities a plus for CNMI's Mini Games bid



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The air-conditioned Marianas High School Gymnasium is one of the existing facilities listed in the CNMI's bid documents for the 2017 Pacific Mini Games.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER



Now that hosting rights for the 2017 Pacific Mini Games has turned into three-nation fight, Northern Marianas Amateur Sports Association believes the CNMI has the edge as far as the availability

of facilities is concerned.

"We have most of the facilities already in place," NMASA president Michael White said when asked what will be the CNMI's advantage over Vanuatu and Nauru.

The CNMI has the IAFF standard Oleai Sports Complex track and field facility, which is the proposed venue for athletics, football, and the opening

and closing ceremonies.

Vanuatu, which the CNMI is considering as its toughest rival for the hosting rights, has the Korman Stadium, but the facility has deteriorated since the last time it hosted the Games in 1993, and Vanuatu is considering a major facelift, which would take years to complete. Vanuatu is also proposing to build eight new facilities to ac-

commodate the 14 sports it is offering for the Games.

Nauru, which listed 12 sports, has no existing stadium for athletics and is proposing to build several new facilities to meet international standards. Nauru has no existing facilities for boxing, judo, taekwondo, table tennis, and beach volleyball, and its venues for basketball, power

See **READY** on Page 26

Wild Bill's splits games in men's league

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER



Jeeraphong Thoensaket had a hat-trick for Wild Bill's, lifting his team to a 7-2 demolition of Baek Du San during their Division A game in the NMIFA Men's Invitational Football League last Sunday at the Oleai Sports Complex Field.

Thoensaket made it to the scoreboard one minute before the first half ended, giving Wild Bill's a 4-0 halftime lead. Adul Detdon scored the first two goals for Wild Bill's in a span of five minutes, hitting his first in the 15th and second in the 20th minute. Eight

minutes after Detdon's second goal, Greg Elliot scored for a 3-0 advantage.

It took awhile before Wild Bill's broke into the scoreboard in the second half, but when it did, the goals came quickly with Thoensaket scoring in the 81st and 83rd and David Frahm in the 86th.

Baek Du San scored off Guang Lin Li's penalty kick in the 36th minute and Young Sin Lim's goal in the 58th minute.

The win over Baek Du San allowed Wild Bill's to recover from a 1-3 loss at the hands of MP United last Thursday.

**MP United 3,
Wild Bills 1**

MP United drew goals from
See **WILD** on Page 26



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

A Wild Bill's defender, left, stays close to a Baek Du San player during the second half of their game in the NMIFA men's league last Sunday at the Oleai Sports Complex Field.

Saipan, Rota Little League get aid for district meet

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER



The Saipan Little League Baseball, Inc. and

Rota Little League received financial assistance from the government for their participation to the 15th Annual CNMI District Little League Championships this weekend.

Rota will be given \$5,000 to be used for its hosting duties in the district competition that will run from May 28 to 30. The financial aid is part of the \$40,500 appropriation from local license fees collected from poker and pachinko slot ma-

chines on Rota. Gov. Benigno R. Fitial approved the appropriation by signing Rota Local Law 17-13 last Monday.

As for the SLLBI, the Saipan and Northern Islands Legislative Delegation agreed to give the association \$25,000 for its trip to Rota. The appropriation is under House Local Bill No. 17-33, D7, which is now awaiting for the governor's signature.

Saipan will be sending four all-stars teams to Rota, which will also be fielding four squads in the district tournament. Tinian has yet to finalize details of its trip to Rota and have until tomorrow to do so, as participating teams must be on Rota on Friday.

See **SAIPAN** on Page 26